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MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, THE FARM AND THE GARDEN.

AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

THE FIRESIDE, RURAL LIFE, LITERATURE, USEFUL ARTS, NEWS, &c.

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Editorial.

FARM ACCOUNTS.

Farm accounts, even when kept in the most simple form, not only afford great satisfaction, but they do much to aid the farmer in his efforts to success. If at the end of the season he is able to strike the balance, and thus learn the cost of his principal crops, he is in a position to correctly judge what crops will promise the most profit another year.

We are aware that the farmer's occupation is that which directs his mind to his labors in the field rather than to his account books, and returning to his home after the labor of the day is over, it is not, as a rule, a very agreeable task to sit down and record the operations of the day; and so, in nine cases out of ten, no record is made of farm operations, not even the time when the seed is put into the ground. While it may not be necessary or desirable for the farmer to spend sufficient time to record all of the operations of the farm, and to keep the cost of every field, and every animal, by a separate account for each, it is desirable, and even necessary, for a good understanding of the business, to keep a record of the principal operations on the farm, and also keep a simple account of the most important crops. This is a work that need not occupy much time in the busy season.

The farmer at the beginning of the year should purchase a small memorandum book, of a convenient size and form to carry in his pocket; this should always be kept with him, so that when he plants a field, he can make a record of it, give a description of the soil, also the kind and quantity of manure applied. As the work advances, he should give the number of times the field is cultivated, the time of harvesting, and an estimate of the quantity of the crop. A simple record like this would require but a few moments to make it, and might be done while resting in the field; but if the book be kept in the house, the farmer will feel no inclination when night comes to get out his book and make a record of the day's operations, even though he opened an account with his farm, so at the end of the year the account is full of omissions, and is thus rendered of but little value. Whatever record is to be made of farm work should be made as soon as performed; the memory should not be relied on for a single half day, for when once the habit of relying on the memory is formed, the records are often so long neglected that the memory is overburdened, and much is thus forgotten. A farmer who will thus make a minute of his operations before leaving the field secures a valuable record, which, when a rainy day comes and he is not busy, or when the long winter evenings come, he can improve the time by looking over his record and transferring to a larger book whatever he considers of value for future reference; in doing so he will bring the items relating to each crop under different heads, so that when the season is over he will have on one page all of the recorded facts relating to the particular crop that heads the page, and will thus be able to judge at a glance of the success or failure of each crop thus recorded. Every farmer must acknowledge that such record would be of great value, because it would enable him to avoid many errors, and to grow those particular crops that the records proved to be the most profitable. Simple accounts like these can be kept by every man who can write, and without being burdensome, after he has once become accustomed to it.

If the farmer will abandon the idea of keeping accounts that must be written up every night, and will rely principally on his note book and pencil, the work will be looked upon with more favor, and when tried will soon be found to be a pleasure rather than a task.

The farmer should open an account with himself and the outside world, charging everything that is bought, and giving credit for what is sold, so that at the end of the year he will know whether his receipts equal his expenses; if not he must make up his mind to change his ways, or in time his credit will become exhausted. Large numbers of liberal hearted men, by neglecting to keep an account of their receipts and expenses, have suddenly found themselves so deeply involved in debt that it is only with the greatest exertions that they are able to recover from their indebtedness, and too often become so discouraged that they give up in despair and let the sheriff sell the property for the benefit of the creditors. In nine cases out of ten if these generous men had kept an account of their expenses and income when they started business life for themselves, they would have seen in time their danger, and have so reduced their expenses as to have brought the balance on the right side.

At least once a year it is well to take an account of stock on hand; in fact this is absolutely necessary to be able to correctly strike the balance, for it would be very easy to have the account appear that the income was more than the expenses, when in point of fact it might be a hundred dollars less, because just before the close of the year a yoke of oxen or several hogs might be sold, and the stock thus reduced one or two hundred dollars below what it was the year before. This shows the importance of taking an account of stock at the commencement of the year, when the account is begun. When the account is taken, the principal articles, with the value of each, should be entered in the account book, so when the next appraisal is made, it may be compared with it, and the difference charged or credited to the farm, as it may be less or more than the first appraisal; thus from year to year will be made a very interesting and valuable record to refer to in after years.

There are so many advantages growing out of well kept accounts, that the wonder is that there are so few who have accounts enough to enable them, at the end of the year, to tell whether the farm has paid expenses or not.

How much better it would be if every one would make it a business to settle once a year with all whom they have had dealings with, and thus be able to know just what the balance is.

STOCK-BREEDING.

A new edition of the popular and practical treatise on "Stock Breeding," by Prof. Manly Miles, Professor of Agriculture at the Massachusetts Agricultural College, will be immediately welcome to the entire farming community. For, as George Culley says in his valuable treatise on live stock, "According to the present improved system of farming there is such a connection between the cultivation of the ground and breeding, rearing and fattening cattle, sheep, and other domestic animals that a man will make but an indifferent figure in rural affairs if he does not understand the latter as well as the former.' And Fitzherbert says in his "Boke of Husbandry" (1532)—"An husbande cannot well thryve by his corne without he have other cattell, nor by his cattell without corne, for els he shall be a byer, a borrower, or a beggar." This extremely valuable book of Professor Miles professes itself to be a practical treatise on the applications of the laws of development and heredity to the improvement and breeding of domestic animals.

Before the publication of this volume, it was true that no systematic work was accessible to the student, in which the known facts and principles of the art of improving and breeding domestic animals are presented, in convenient form, for study and reference, notwithstanding the importance of live stock to the farmer, and the wonderful progress that has been made in its improvement since the time of Bakewell. Prof. Miles has been long and widely known as a successful lecturer on the important subject of stock breeding. He modestly lays no special claims to originality in his book, since it is but a popular exposition of the principles of an art that is almost exclusively based upon the experience of practical man. He claims only the merit of having classified and arranged the facts, and the inferences, in some instances, that may be drawn from them in explaining the practice of the most successful breeders. He expresses his conviction that a systematic statement of what is already known in the practice of the art is of greater importance, at the present time, than any new truths, since this must furnish the only consistent foundation for future progress and improvement.

A very large number of cases has been collected in the course of the work, to illustrate the various topics under discussion, compiled from original sources as far as possible, and presented in their original form; and references, in nearly all cases, have been given to the works quoted from, for the special benefit of the student, who will thus have a ready index to authorities that may be profitably consulted. As, within so limited a compass, no topic can be treated exhaustively, the attempt is made to present only such an outline of the principles of the art as would be required in a text-book for students or a work of reference for farmers. And in the perusal and study of this treatise on Stock Breeding, it is to be hoped and expected the breeders will realize the importance of putting on record the additional facts, from their own experience, that are required for a more complete discussion of the topics treated on its pages.

There are eighteen separate chapters in the book, on the following named subjects:—Breeding as an Art; Heredity of Normal Characters; Heredity of Diseases; Heredity of Acquired and Abnormal Characters; Atavism; Law of Correlation; Variation; Fecundity; In-and-In Breeding; Cross-Breeding; Relative Influence of Parents; Influence of a Previous Impregnation; Intra-Uterine Influences; Sex; Pedigree; Form of Animals as an Index of Qualities; Selection; and Period of Gestation. The chapter on "Form" is spiritedly illustrated from life by the well-known animal-artist, John R. Page, one figure alone excepted, which is after a sketch by Hon. Francis Rotch. Mr. Bakewell regarded live-stock as machines for converting the vegetable products of the farm into animal products of greater value. Sir John Sinclair says that "under the head of live-stock are comprehended the various sorts of domesticated animals which are employed by man as instruments for converting to his use, either by labor or otherwise, those productions of the soil which are not immediately applicable to supply his wants in their natural state." So that it is plain that no man who works a farm can claim to be exempt from the necessity of being in some way a breeder of live-stock.

In this latest edition of Prof. Miles's book new and very important matter has been added, in different places, in regard to Scrofula and Tuberculosis, subjects in which every stock breeder and keeper of cattle have a living interest. These new pages will not fail to be read with much care and thoughtfulness. While pleuro-pneumonia, and anthrax, and other diseases that are well known to be contagious occur as epidemics, making it necessary for governments to interfere for their suppression by quarantine regulations, the Professor says they are less to be dreaded than the insidious and persistent influence of tubercular diseases that are everywhere prevalent. One-third of those of the human race who die in the period of active middle age are stated to be the victims of the same disease; and quite as large a proportionate mortality among domesticated animals, from natural causes, is to be attributed to tuberculous diseases. Among the best types of our modern improved breeds of animals, which present the widest divergence from the normal characteristics of the species, this predisposition is still further intensified.

An excellent and convenient index accompanies the volume, which is, as an entire piece of work, most appropriately commended by the leading journals of the country, whose opinions are of solid value. One of them says that no one can doubt that the bulk of our farmers stand greatly in need of some such help as Professor Miles tenders; another, that to stock breeders it is indispensable; a third, that Dr. Miles has collated the facts and discussed the principles bearing on his subject more carefully than is done in any other work accessible to the general reader; a fourth, that in proportion as the principles here stated are acted upon, will stock breeding become more profitable to the country and to individuals; a fifth, that no man in the country, perhaps, possessed better requirements for writing a comprehensive, scientific and practical work on stock breeding than Professor Miles; and a sixth, that millions of dollars in this country alone are invested in domestic animals; and many thousands of men are interested in breeding them; and yet, as a general thing, each man has learned what he knows of the matter by tedious, and often expensive, personal experience; but that a volume like this will aid him immensely in his business. "Stock Breeding" is published in very convenient duodecimo form, and printed from large clear types on white paper, by D. Appleton & Co., New York.

☞A New York farmer who has been testing Holsteins as milkers states that in a herd of twelve the highest yield was twenty pounds and the lowest fourteen pounds of butter. The daily yield of five of them was over three pounds for the highest and two and a half for the lowest. He thinks the Holsteins can be made to rival the Jerseys in production of butter, while for milk, butter and beef combined they are superior to all other breeds.—[Ex.

THE VICAR PEAR.

Is this pear worth raising? If this question be put to one who is a large grower of pears, very likely he would give a negative answer, or at least he would say it is not better than a third rate pear; but if the question be put to one who has but a few pear trees, he would probably answer in the affirmative. Why this difference of opinion? Most likely it is because the large grower of pears, having so many better pears, he never thinks of eating a vicar; while the small grower often finds himself short of other varieties, and the vicar being a constant bearer he always has enough of them, and finding them better than no pears, eats them and is thus led to consider them worth raising.

The tree is not only a good grower, but is very hardy, at least so far as our experience goes, the leaves keep a dark green color until quite late in the season; it is a constant bearer, and is inclined to overbear, there being very rarely a year that there are not too many pears on the trees, to either grow large, or to ripen well. The only way we have ever discovered to have these pears fit to eat, is to thin them out to one half, and often one third of what starts to grow.

The inclination is to grow in clusters, but to have them grow to full perfection, they should be thinned to single pears; better have fifty well grown pears on a tree, than five bushels of half grown ones, because small vicar pears cannot be eaten uncooked, and are very poor eating even when cooked.

At present, well grown vicar pears sell very well in the market, not so much because they are good eating, as because of their good looks and large size. The time may, and probably will come, when other and better pears will take the place of the vicar in the market. What is said in favor of this pear is, the tree is a good grower, hardy and a good bearer, that the pear is large, good looking, and keeps very well; but it lacks one of the most important qualities, namely, good flavor.

This pear begins to ripen at the stem end, often becoming insipid while the other end of the pear is hardly ripe enough to eat, and every pear which is not well grown, and well ripened, has a choky taste.

There are so many better pears the vicar will probably not be introduced into new orchards; where it now exists in old orchards, it will, in many cases, be retained until wanted as a stock for some new variety that is believed to be better.

SNOW AS A PROTECTION.

However disagreeable it may be to have the ground covered with two feet in depth with snow, it is one of the best protectors which the farmer has, considering how little it costs. When the land is covered in the autumn, and it lays all winter, it serves as a great protection to the grass roots and to all sweeping vines. Strawberry plants that have been covered all winter with snow, come out in the spring fresh and green, even though they have not been mulched.

The snow not only protects the vegetation which it covers up, by sheltering it from the cold winds and sudden changes of weather, but it prevents the frequent freezing and thawing of the ground, which is so destructive to small roots that are near the surface, and which are often lifted entirely out of the ground by the action of the frost. When the land lays open and exposed all winter, it not only injures the grass and small plants, but it injures the land itself, by blowing away the finer particles of decayed vegetation from the surface, and when thus exposed, there is a chance for the frost to enter the ground to the depth of several feet, thus cooling the earth to a great depth, requiring many warm days in the spring to thaw it out, and warm it up sufficient to start vegetation; but when a deep snow covers the land until spring opens, as soon as the snow melts, the ground being free from frost, will soon be in a condition to cultivate, and for plants to grow.

As a rule, the season comes forward earlier when the ground has been covered with snow the entire winter, than it does when there has been but little snow. In our climate no doubt it is best to have plenty of snow, and have it lay on the ground during the period of cold weather. This year we have started with a good covering of snow; should it be replenished as fast as needed to keep the land covered, we may look for good crops of grass next season, and a spring that will be favorable for planting farm crops; keeping this in view, we can dig our paths with more cheerfulness, and resort to rubber boots to keep the snow out, with a feeling that there is a bright side to a snow storm, without resorting to merry sleigh parties, or mingle with the jolly coasters.

WINTER EVENINGS.

The farmer who has a family of children occupies a very responsible position; on him depends very largely the future character of his children. If he makes no effort to furnish them with entertainments that are interesting, they will take the matter into their own hands, and get up such entertainments as their immature judgment may suggest, even though they have to do it away from home, without the knowledge or consent of their parents.

The parent who demands that his children shall employ their winter evenings reading history, or studying scientific books, and expects that they will always obey him, has yet an important lesson to learn. Whatever studies the children are to pursue during the long winter evenings should be conducted in a manner to make it a pleasure, the parents taking a part as both teachers and scholars; but care should always be taken not to continue a lesson so long as to make it tiresome. Then give them a portion of the evening to pursue their own course, without proscribed bounds; in this way they gradually learn to care for themselves.

Parents should always feel it a duty to furnish the children, not only an abundant supply of good books and papers, but also a good variety of innocent games, so that they may never be at loss for something to occupy their attention. When we enter a home where there are a half a dozen children and find it bare of childrens' books, papers, and games, we not only pity the children, but also the parents, because it is so evident that they have little conception of the pleasure derived from entertaining the children, or the great danger there is of their children being wrecked, because driven into the street, or a neighboring saloon for evening entertainments.

Parents who have children have a duty to perform which they have no right to dodge. The father of a family who every evening absents himself from home, to gossip with the neighbors, not only does a great injustice to his wife, but sets an example to his children, that will alienate them from their homes, and perhaps lead them into society that indulges in something even worse than gossip. It should be the study of parents to make home so pleasant, that the children will have no desire to leave it, even for the most enticing saloon.

Questions & Answers.

☞All questions to the Editor, desiring answer through the *Ploughman*, should be accompanied by all name of the correspondent.

THE "DANISH SEPARATOR" OR "CENTRIFUGAL SKIMMER."

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

On behalf of myself and others who are interested in dairy operations, I beg to enquire through your columns as to the advantages claimed in favor of the Danish separator or centrifugal skimmer over other skimmers in common use; in other words, what do practical dairymen consider the most profitable mode of separating cream from milk to produce the best quality of butter for immediate use. W. A. H.

[The above question was referred to Mr. Edward Burnett, a gentleman well qualified, from experience, to give the required information. The following is the answer of Mr. Burnett.—ED.]

Answer.

The information sought after by your correspondent "W. A. H." about Centrifugal Skimmers is one which perhaps I can partially answer.

I have never used the Danish (or Danish Weston as manufactured in this country) but since 1879 have used a Weston Centrifugal, and find it invaluable to obtain an even quality of rich cream to sell in glass jars.

The quality, however, depends entirely upon the amount of milk used, and it takes between 11 and 12 quarts to a quart of cream.

All the experiments made by the Danish Government—which have been made under the supervision of a board of scientific men during past three years, and all those made by myself, have proved a decided gain in the amount of butter obtained from a given amount of milk of from 3 to 15 per cent.

In my opinion, however, you do not obtain the very highest quality of butter. It appears to lack that extreme delicate flavor so essential, and I have thought that the great pressure upon the milk might disturb and throw out a certain portion of those delicate oils that chemists have found in their analyses of fine butter.

E. BURNETT.

THE "PITMAN PIPPIN."

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Do you know the origin of the "Pitman Pippin;" I was informed once, but it has slipped my mind.

Yours truly, W. T.

Swampscott, Dec. 13th, 1883.

The Pitman or "Pickman," although not so well known as the Baldwin, but is acknowledged by all who are acquainted with the apple, to be the very best for cooking purposes. This apple originated on the "Pickman" farm in Salem, now owned by Geo. B. Loring. The original tree stood in what was called the garden, and for many years went by the name of the garden apple, but as its superior quality became appreciated, it was propagated on that farm to a large extent and took the present name of "Pickman" Pippin.—[ED.

THE "EXPERIMENT STATION BULLETINS."

To the Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Will you please inform me through the *Ploughman* how I can get the Bulletin of the Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station, or if it is to be subscribed for? By so doing you will confer a favor on

Mansfield, Mass. T. B. S.

The "Bulletin" can be obtained of Prof. C. A. Goessmann, of Mass. Agricultural College, Amherst, Mass.—[ED.

"FOUL IN THE FOOT."

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

If "Foul in the Foot" is the same disease that I have always known as "Hoof Ail," I would recommend "C. R. D." to use strong pork brine. I have had quite a number of cases among my cows and cured them in two or three days in this way.

Take for the fore feet a 50 pound white lead keg, fill half full of brine, and put in one foot and make the cow stand her weight on it two minutes; then the other foot. For the hind feet take one end of a good stout barrel, cut it off about 6 inches high, fill it half full of brine, push the cow one side, place the tub in her place, then push her into it and keep her there two minutes or so. Do this twice a day for two or three days and they are cured. I have had the smell of hoof ail in my barn so strong you could smell it as plain as you could a skunk when you opened the door.

Yours, A. E. C.

P. S.—The brine should be as strong as salt will make it.

Norwich, Ct., Dec. 24, 1883.

LARGE EGGS.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

In the *Ploughman*, Dec. 22d, some one signs O. T. M., from Dorchester. He says that one of his hens laid an egg that measured eight inches in length by six inches in circumference. I would like to know how many hens O. T. M. has that will measure eight inches long. If the egg was eight inches long, how long is the hen? If he had sent the length of the hen I could have considered it truthful. O. A. T.

Revere, Mass., Dec. 26th, 1883.

☞The same farmer who willingly pays a good price for the services of a stallion in order to raise a good colt is often very indifferent regarding the calves intended to be kept for beef or the dairy, and yet the one class of stock demands the same judgment in the matter of improvement as the other.

☞The president of the Elmira Farmers Club tells the *Husbandman* that his crop of sorghum got caught by the frost, and too much injured to be of value as a syrup producing substance. But he fed it to his cows which ate it greedily, and soon began to gain in milk. He thinks he got about as much profit from the crop as if it had been devoted to the original intent.

HOLSTEIN BULL "NETHERLAND PRINCE."

Owned by Smiths & Powell, "Lakeside Stock Farm," Syracuse, N. Y.

Netherland Prince H. H. B. No. 716, calved April 1st, 1880; sire Schemmel, a son of Netherland Dowager, imported. She has a record of 91 pounds in a day in Holland, and has given this season, the first year in this country, and before becoming fully acclimated, 9362 pounds, 10 ounces, in seven months and twenty-six days. Dam of Netherland Prince is Lady Netherland (1263) imported. She has a record of 73 2 3 pounds of milk in one day as a four year old on grass. In the five months and six days ending with February, 1883, she gave 6130 pounds, 11 ounces. Her dam was Gert Met, a cow noted for her beauty and which had a record of 71 1-2 pounds in a day.

Netherland Prince is a brother to the famous Netherland Queen (414) which has made the following remarkable records: As a 2 year old she gave 58 pounds, 12 ounces, in a day and 13,574 pounds, 3 ounces in one year. She milked deeply as a 3 year old, but no record was kept.

As a 4 year old she gave 76 pounds in a day, and 15,614 pounds, 9 ounces in one yea; and as a five (5) year old she gave 83 pounds 4 ounces in one day, 2235 pounds 4 ounces in one month, and 7508 pounds 6 ounces in four months and eighteen days; and in Nov. 1882 she made 20 pounds of butter in one week, without any change from her ordinary feed in quantity or quality. Butter was weighed after working and before salting.

Netherland Princess is another sister to Netherland Prince, and we will publish her picture in some future issue of the *Ploughman*.

She has a 3 year old record of 55 pounds 14 ounces in one day, 1639 pounds 11 ounces in one month, and 14,101 pounds 2 ounces in one year.

As a 4 year old she has given 1687 pounds 7 ounces in one month, and 8735 pounds 7 ounces in six months and 14 days to date.

Her butter record as a 2 year old was 14 pounds 4 ounces in one week. As a 3 year old she made 14 pounds 11 1-2 ounces in one week, and as a 4 year old she made in (4) four days at the rate of 18 pounds 9 1-2 ounces per week.

In addition to the above, Netherland Prince is half brother to Netherland Belle, which has a 3 year old butter record of 16 pounds 7 ounces in one week, and is closely related to Netherland Baroness, with butter record of 17 pounds 5 ounces per week. Netherland Duchess, record 14 pounds 13 ounces butter per week and many other noted butter cows. All the above named Holsteins are of the famous "Lakeside Herd" of Messrs. Smiths & Powell, Syracuse, N. Y.

Stock Department.

ATTENTION AFTER CALVING.

It is interesting to observe the maternal affection the cow manifests for her offspring the instant it is born; her anxious moaning as she turns to lick off the moisture that hangs about it. This gentle friction gives warmth and energy to the young calf, chilled and exhausted as it usually appears in the beginning of its separate existence. Sometimes the young heifer, with her first offspring, gives no attention; in which case it is advisable to sprinkle meal or bran plentifully over it, which will attract the attention of the mother, and if she once begins to lick the calf, the natural instinct will be awakened. If the calf seems weak and chilly, and disinclined to move, this use of meal may be proper in cases where the cow does not neglect it, as this will encourage her in licking and cleaning off the little one.

To allay the excitement and fever usually attending parturition, three quarts of cold water, as advised by Professor Sheldon, will be useful. Afterwards the cow may have a warm mash or gruel. After the discharge of the afterbirth, if it comes away in a few hours, as is usually the case, it will be time enough to attend to the milking, which should be carefully and thoroughly done, as it will afford relief from the inflammation occasioned by the sudden flush of milk. If the cow is in high flesh, or there is an unusual amount of milk, or any other cause to apprehend the approach of the dreaded *milk fever*, an aperient drink—consisting of, say, two quarts of milk warm water, well sweetened with molassea, one pound of Epsom salts and two ounces of ginger—may be given. The cleansing sometimes does not take place for several days, and we have very little faith in the various remedies that are prescribed to hasten it. Nor is there so much danger to be apprehended as is generally supposed. We have known the afterbirth to be retained for seven or eight days without serious injury. As soon as it is found that the afterbirth does not come away at the proper time, the aperient drink may be given: Two quarts of pennyroyal (*Hedeoma*) tea, with the salts and ginger, as this herb is warmly aromatic, diaphoretic and carminative. The retention of the afterbirth has a most debilitating influence, to counteract which we should resort to the most nutritious food, such as oil cake, sound and dry, Indian corn, etc.

In reference to leaving the cow out at calving time, it must be observed that this is only proper in fair weather; and it is especially to be noted that it is dangerous to allow her to lie on cold or frozen ground after calving. We have known acute inflammation, terminating in death, to result from this neglect.

Of course every owner of pedigree stock will possess himself of some standard popular work on veterinary medicine; and these suggestions are only submitted because it is thought they may be of value as conclusions drawn from practical experience.—[Judge Jones, in Breeder's Gazette, Chicago.

The Horse.

GOOD MEN MAKE GOOD HORSES.

We saw a farmer the other day with a fine looking team passing our residence. One of the horses in his team had a familiar look. Halting the farmer, we said, on looking closely at his horses: "Why your off horse is the counterpart of neighbor ——'s balky horse—the one he had so much trouble with a year or two ago." "Why," said the farmer, "this is the same animal. After a few days I never had any trouble with him." "How did you break the balky creature?" we inquired. "By kindness," retorted the farmer; "the same way that I have broke lots of other horses in my lifetime that were considered unsafe, either in saddle or harness." Well, well this proves what some one said, that a horse is never vicious or intractable without a direct cause. If a horse is restive or timorous, you may be sure that these faults arise from defects in his education. He has been treated either awkwardly or brutally. Commence the education of a horse at his birth; accustom him to the presence, voice and sight of man; speak and act gently; caress him, all chastisement or cruelty confuses the animal and makes him wild. They are good men who make good horses. We do not now remember of ever seeing an uncertain, unsafe, balky horse belonging to a man of this character. They make the horse good.—[Farmer's Tribune.

☞The farmer who has a supply of roots on hand with which to feed his stock, is now reaping the reward of good management. Roots fed at this season not only serve to increase the flow of milk and give color and flavor to the butter from fresh milch cows, but cleanse the blood, tone up the system and place all classes of cattle in a generally healthy condition.—[Western Agriculturist.

The Sheepfold.

THE YOUNG LAMBS.

(Farm and Garden.)

Although it is rather soon for estimating upon the number of lambs due, in a few more weeks the ewes will come in, and if the farmer desires to push them forward rapidly he must pay some attention to the dams now. The ewe must endure the cold, be deprived of her natural green food, and nourish the coming lamb in such a manner as to bring it forth strong and vigorous. The early lambs are the ones that bring the highest prices when sent to market, but an early lamb is a nuisance and unprofitable when it is stunted and dwarfed by cold and insufficient food. If the ewe is sound and healthy, and has been well fed on a variety of food, she will have no difficulty in lambing or providing for the lamb; but the trouble is with the farmers, who invariably leave the ewes to themselves during that period, and give them no attention at a time when it is mostly required.

The ewes are naturally protected by their wool covering, but when the lambs come into the world on a cold, bleak day or night, they are too delicate to be left to the care of the ewe alone, and the farmer who expects early lambs should be on the alert by penning the ewes that are liable to come in, and giving them good shelter and dry bedding. The first care of the lambs is to see if the difficulty removed, and if they get a good supply of milk will do excellently, but that is something, too, to be noticed. Feed the ewes liberally on all the hay they will eat, and give them a small allowance of mixed ground grain, such as corn meal and oats, with some roots. Should milk fever occur feed on oats and hay alone, inducing the lamb to draw as much as possible by placing it occasionally at the udder. Give ewes that have lost their lambs others that are twins, which may be done if not postponed too late, thereby allowing only one lamb to the ewe.

EVERY FARMER MAY KEEP SHEEP.

Every farmer, however few the acres, may profitably keep a certain number of sheep, for not only in summer, but also in winter, will sheep consume fodder otherwise wasted. Many persons suppose that it is not safe to keep sheep in the same pasture with young horses. Both animals feed on short grasses and also weeds, and playful young horses sometimes injure sheep by racing them. With cattle the horns are the only danger, and sheep soon learn to keep out of the way of them. While it is better that sheep should be kept by themselves, especially in winter and in the case of large flocks, decidedly so, yet when few sheep are kept they may be safely allowed to run with cattle in the pastures, and also in the feeding yards in the winter. Indeed, sheep soon learn to follow the cattle rather closely, especially in regions where predatory dogs are common, and instinctly so for protection. It is a fact that dogs seldom attack sheep kept with cattle, unless in the case of someold rogue, and then only when the sheep are found at a considerable distance, for the instinct of the cattle is to attack animals found chasing or worrying other stock near them.—[Breeder's Gazette, Chicago.

Horticulture.

THE RED ASTRACHAN APPLE.

(Germantown Telegraph.)

Although this is a popular variety of the apple, and of rather large size, with the color a brilliant deep crimson, with a thick bloom, and is to be found in places nearly all over the Republic, yet it is strange that there are so many orchards in which it is not to be found. It is not, it is true, a first class eating apple, and is perhaps rather acid, but there is scarcely another equal to it for culinary purposes; and no matter what the supply may be in the market, it is quickly bought up. It is as soft and entirely free from pulp when cooked as frozen cream. It is also an early bearer, coming next after the Early Harvest, and though it is not an abundant bearer, it has a yearly crop and thus retains its productive capacity year after year, and is naturally long lived. We do not hesitate to say that no orchard should be without it, and so far as we know we believe it is to be obtained at almost every respectable nursery.

☞The experiment of feeding sorghum seed to hogs was tried this year in Mahaska county, Iowa. The Oskaloosa Herald reports that it has a value equal to sound corn, bushel for bushel. The yield per acre is astonishing, and will average, on a good crop, no less than thirty bushels per acre.

Floriculture.

Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman

"CHRYSANTHEMUMS."

BY CHARLES M. HOVEY.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

The year has come to a close, and the last flowers of autumn—the chrysanthemums—have about gone, but the great beauty of their various colored flowers, their varied shape and the profusion of bloom are impressed upon our memory, and we look back upon the recent exhibition of this flower by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society as among the most interesting of the year. It shows how much can be gained by encouragement; for until these special exhibitions were inaugurated, with liberal premiums, only ordinary plants were exhibited.

It is many years since the chrysanthemum was made a special feature of culture by the Royal Horticultural Society of London, and all the finest varieties introduced from China. Collectors were sent out for the express purpose of introducing every variety that could be obtained. These were carefully cultivated and full descriptions given in the Transactions of the Society with beautifully colored plates of the choicer kinds. From that time, however, for many years, no further accessions were made, and it was not until the first seedlings produced by the French cultivators that the flower again began to attract attention. For some years the principal supply of new varieties were produced in France, but in later years by English cultivators, and now for the first time in America. With the introduction of these new seedlings, Chrysanthemum Societies were organized around London for the special purpose of encouraging the production of new varieties and the cultivation of superior plants, and the progress has been so great that we now have a great number of beautiful kinds far in advance of the older ones.

These exhibitions have raised the chrysanthemum to its proper place in our gardens and have shown it to be, what it truly is, the only autumnal flower for the decoration of the parlor or conservatory, our early frosts being too severe for open air bloom. Fortunately, however, for this purpose the French, with their enthusiasm and skill, have produced a class of early flowering varieties which finish their blooming before the appearance of early frosts. And with equal skill they have added some later varieties which bloom up to the incoming of the new year. Thus we have now not only four class of flowers, the Pompone, the Medium and Large flowered and the Japanese, but also the early flowered, medium season and late flowered chrysanthemums.

It is, therefore, with much gratification that we can state, our country, though so late in the field, is likely to produce new chrysanthemums, as they have camellias, azaleas, geraniums, and other plants, quite equal, if not superior, to the English or French; and that we shall be no longer dependent upon the latter for beautiful additions to our collections. The first to attempt this has been Dr. Walcott of Cambridge, whose exhibition of chrysanthemums was so much admired at the recent exhibitions both in Boston and New York, including as they did several of his finest seedlings.

Recently Dr. Walcott sent out flowers of his new varieties to cultivators in London *who pronounced "some of them as very distinct and beautiful."* These flowers were packed so carefully that they arrived almost as fresh as when cut from the plants. With these specimens Dr. Walcott tells how he began the raising of these popular flowers:

"I began the raising of seedlings some few years ago. Finding that I could procure seeds by keeping the horse quite dry, and by giving water to the plants themselves very sparingly. I made some attempts at cross-fertilization, and am satisfied that I have gained nothing by them; even at this time of the year, it is very difficult to keep insects out of my houses, and a careful selection of proper plants, I fancy that they will distribute the pollen better than I could hope to do. Growing Chrysanthemums as I do for the pleasant occupation of the few leisure hours of a busy life, I have not given them to the trade; they are in the hands of my friends; nor have I done more than exhibit some of them at Horticultural Shows at Boston, and once at New York, when they received medals and certificates of merit. Some of my more recent seedlings are to me so satisfactory that I am going to send you a few for an opinion."

These seedlings to which awards have been made are as follows:—President Parkman (Japanese) plant of robust, compact growth, flowers full, bright rosy purple; President Hovey, (Japanese) flowers large, spreading, brown, with salmon tint, white at the insertion of the petals; President Wilder, (Japanese) flowerets red tipped, gold reverse, gold centre, bright yellow; Pontiac, (Japanese) same habit and growth as President Parkman, noted above, flowers full creamy yellow; H. L. Higginson, (Japanese) flowers medium size, flowerets tubular, yellow brown, extremities flaring and brown red; Savannah, small flowers, brilliant red, bright yellow centre; Hiawatha, (Chinese) incurved, rose violet, with lighter back, good form; Minnehaha, large white flowers, backs of petals slightly tinted with pink, finely incurved; Robert Walcott, (Japanese) seedling of 1882 of a vivid crimson red tint, each floweret being yellowish behind; George Walcott, a bold flower, with flat or ribbon shaped petals, of a pale rose color, edged with rosy crimson. Other seedlings of 1883 were exhibited, but not yet named.

As I have said it is gratifying to learn in the words of the English cultivator, "that a definite and successful beginning has been made in America, and that really fine varieties are now raised there from home grown and home raised seeds." Having shown that after all, the task is in no way difficult, other cultivators will carry out what Dr. Walcott has already accomplished without scarcely any effort. Simply careful attention to the dryness of the house and plants. This established, the seeds can be obtained and their growth is simple enough. But more than this these seedlings flower the first year and the raiser has the satisfaction of seeing the results of his labors immediately and not as with many plants after three or four years of patient care and much labor.

Incomparable as some of the later varieties of Chrysanthemums are, there is room for great improvement, especially in color. We want more pure colors, not the brownish red, mahogany and yellow brown colors; but pure rose, deep crimson, rich purple violet and all these hades from pure pink to deep red. Scarlet we hardly look for; of white and yellow we have an abundance and varieties too which appear perfection in shape; these it will be hard to beat, as no longer ago than the latest show in England, the old Empress of India carried off the palm. I am pleased to chronicle this achievement in horticultural progress for the year 1883.

I need say but little of the culture of Chrysanthemum, as they are easily grown by every one in what may be called handsome plants. For the especial purpose of exhibition, however, they require a good deal of attention and some skill in their growth, and an amount of care quite unnecessary in the culture of fine plants for ordinary decoration of the greenhouse or parlor. Young plants raised in March or April and turned out into the open ground, well enriched, in May, freely supplied with water and liquid manure, make massive plants if potted early in September; and similar small plants removed to the ground as late as June, will grow into specimens quite large enough for all ordinary purposes of decoration.

Correspondence.

Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman

"ENSILAGE"—"SILO."

Experience in Growing "Ensilage" Crops.

BY BENJAMIN P. WARE.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

After another year's experience in growing ensilage crops, curing and feeding ensilage, it may be of interest to the readers of the *Ploughman*, to know what conclusions I have come to concerning this new system of feeding stock. Although so many farmers have adopted it, and so much has been written and spoken upon the subject, that I can hardly expect to give any new light upon it.

I find that rye ensilage is an excellent food for horses; they love it, and thrive well upon it. I have fed my seven horses since October 1st with it, morning and noon with a little hay at night and two quarts of cracked corn once a day, and they are looking and feeling well. Rye is more difficult to keep than corn as ensilage, for the reason that as it matures the straw becomes hollow, and is therefore more difficult to press the air out; hence it should be cut early, just before the heads are in blossom, while the stalks are solid; two or three days later makes a great difference in this respect. And it should be put into the silo as fast as it is cut, or before it wilts in the sun. Winter rye is in proper condition for cutting from the 15th to the 20th of June, then plough in the stubble and spread on four to five cords of manure, which should be thoroughly harrowed in, then plant three pecks or a bushel of corn per acre in drills three and one half feet apart; the after cultivation is at small expense, harrowing with a Thomas smoothing harrow when the corn is two inches high and again when it is six or eight inches high, will destroy all of the weeds and keep the surface open and light. When the corn is two or two and a half feet high, sow rye again and go through with a cultivator that will leave the land nearly level.

In the fall, after the corn is off, spread three cords of manure on the rye per acre, or use a suitable fertilizer as preferred. I like the manure better, as being more lasting and leaving the land in better tilth. I find by this system that the two crops in one season will yield about twelve tons of rye and from twenty to thirty tons of corn per acre. This may be reasonably expected with good land and this treatment. I have done this for two years on the same land. I do not know how long it may be continued on the same land without a diminution of products, or in what condition the land will be in for other crops; time will prove. Of course a change of land in rotation is desirable and important. I find that ensilage crops, are like all others, subject to conditions of the season, requiring rain and sunshine, as well as other crops. And because some fields have failed by

sults. Yet its *fallacy* lies in the fact that after the achievement of a *perfect pudding*, there comes a loud call for the *pot* and the *crane*, the hearth, fire, fuel, the cart, carting and team, the feed, farm and farmer, the woodman's axe and the forest, or the coal mine, the miner and his pick. There. Granting the pudding to be superlative, so may be a discovery and its development into a science. Nevertheless, contemplate the *essentials*, many of them *costly*, to present it *worthily* to the public taste. Just as the pudding must not only be well compounded but well cooked, so must the final test of this science—the predictions, be satisfactory, *i. e*, in the main *correct*. We *don't want* a science that is *liable* to mistakes. Give us a *perfect* work or nothing. To show the magnitude of this popular error, it is enough to say, point to a single, no matter what its value, that was perfect at the start. There is not one that could have been made of any value to man but for the patronage of wealth and the constant toil of devoted men freed from want, supplied with offices for record, instruments, observatory, and all requisite essentials. Without the *time* for the comparison of my records, a retreat for study, and to store them, that important department, viz.: *Comparative meteorology*, is unavailable. All I can hope is by some striking coincidences, even in details, otherwise unaccountable, to prove a scientific basis.

THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS.

The fundamental principle on which the whole fabric rests is the universal law of attraction, viz.: that matter attracts matter in proportion to relative density, and in the *inverse ratio* of the *square* of the distance. This settles the question of

THE TIDAL THEORY.

It establishes the facts of, 1st. Tides of the internal flux mass of the earth or else, of an interse strain on all matters near the surface, causing periodic volcanic action and earthquakes when, as at certain intervals, the planetary action—specially between the sun, moon and the earth,—becomes abnormally concentrated, and therefore more intense. Secondly

OCEAN TIDES, CURRENTS AND TIDAL WAVES.

These are also abnormally intensified during the monthly period of the *Catastrophic Era*, and are to be readily computed and predicted, as for years, we have *verified* by actual prediction. 3rd,

THE AERIAL TIDES, HOT WAVES AND COLD INTERVALS.

These involve the refraction of both light and heat, abnormally exaggerated, periodically, during the *Catastrophic Era*, specially in certain relative positions of "*Three Bodies*," viz., the sun, moon and the earth causing the

BLAZING SKIES, THE ZODIACAL LIGHT, WINTER THUNDERING AND LIGHTNING, THE INDIAN SUMMER AND JANUARY THAW,

Tornadoes, Cyclones, Northers, Storms, Tempests, Floods and Droughts, with all the milder and more genial manifestations of heat and cold, shower and sunshine, the gentle breeze, the gale and the monotonous calm.

This Science comprehends four great classes of forces, viz:—*Planetary*, Tidal Thermal and re-actionary, or catastrophic. The closer logical relations of all these will be shown hereafter.

NEXT WEEK'S AERO-TIDAL PLANETARY WEATHER.

For the Latitude of Boston and Detroit, 42 deg. 20 min.

Computed, Tuesday, Jan. 1st, 1884.

Saturday, Jan. 5th, I revised my "*Prog.*'s for the last week of Dec. '83, three times. It was the nearest approach to records that I ever made. Thus, on Dec. 18th, I closed the prog. for Saturday 29th thus: "Some aspects of *light* snow or rain cover the next three days." Record: Light snow and rain, Sunday evening, 30th; light, damp snow Monday night 31st, and Tuesday A. M., Jan. 1st. I said "*light*," because it was in the *scanty* period; the "*copious*" having closed about Dec. 25th as predicted. This shows the good of *revision*. Now, as Friday 4th is well sandwiched with warm waves, and the nights in contrast much colder till Monday night, and the days, from to-day, 5th, slowly getting colder, the increasing cold, after the peculiar temperature of Friday 4th, rather bodes storm, favoring snow as the cold comes on. Yet, if stormy, snow or rain will be light, as the *scanty* period runs till Jan. 10th or 12th, after which the fall, when it storms, will be more *copious* again. The storm aspects of Saturday 5th are feeble till near midnight; and the day may be fair or partly cloudy. This is a sample discussion of Saturday, as it is doubtful.

Sunday, 6th.—Some colder than Saturday and more storm like. Temperature uniform.

Monday, 7th. Previous night and the morning, mild. Temperature, more steady or even some colder as the day advances, after 8 A. M., Monday night where in a few milder nights.

Tuesday, 8th. The previous mild night gives morning mild. The weather will deteriorate through the day and night.

Wednesday, 9th, and Thursday, 10th, Storm aspects increase. One or both days stormy. Thursday morn, milder, as you go west from Boston, and in the suburbs north. The same is true of Thursday night, after midnight. Lower readings, a little south, in Massachusetts.

Friday, 11th. A more copious period now begins, when stormy. Also, *colder nights and mornings*, as the second week of January draws to a close; with much higher temperature at noons and some higher, midnights.

☞ CHEAPEST FASHION MAGAZINE in the world, 120 large pages, 4 pages new music, 1000 engravings each issue. 50 cents per year; single copies, 15 cents. STRAWBRIDGE & CLOTHIER, 8th & Market St., Philadelphia.

C. P. Huntington.—This railway magnate of the Pacific coast, who controls the Central Pacific and the Southern Pacific roads, controls altogether more than 12,000 miles of railroad and water transportation route, and these enormous lines are operated under his direction and in his interest. His great feat is described as being about to take freight from Boston and New York by steamer to Galveston, and thence by railway to San Francisco, beating the transcontinental freight lines by at least a week, or fourteen days against twenty-four. In a few months, the completion of his new lines east of the Mississippi River will give him control of a complete transcontinental line of railway, the ocean terminal being Newport News on the Atlantic and San Francisco on the Pacific. He is reported to be worth about fifty millions.

The Thorndike Co's new cotton mill at Palmer was wholly burned on Tuesday night, Cornelius Wilson, the Company's agent, while at work on the roof of the burning building, fell dead from heart disease. The loss to the Company is about $50,000.

The total receipts of the government during the first half of the fiscal year that ended with December 31, 1883, amounted to $178,344,207, as against $200,801,187 for the corresponding period of last year which is a falling off of $28,456,980.

The appointment of Mr. Charles P. Clark, as receiver of the New York and New England Railroad Co., which had not previously been declared insolvent, and his simultaneous resignation as President of the road, so soon after his election, caused great surprise and no little indignation in this city when it became known.

The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, JAN. 5, 1884.

☞ *Persons desiring a change in the address of their paper must state where the paper has been sent as well as the new direction.*

Gen. Grant is able to leave his room with the aid of crutches.

A furious snowstorm raged all through the Northwest on Tuesday. We had it at the East in the form of rain.

The reduction of the public debt for the last month is estimated, at this writing, to be about 12 millions.

Ten thousand horns were blowing in New York City when the chimes of Trinity Church were ringing out the old year and ringing in the new.

The legislaaures of a large number of States organized on Wednesday. City governments generally make their new appearance on Monday next.

Figures relate that during the year 1883 there were arrivals of 6376 vessels at the port of New York from foreighn parts, 1957 being American built.

It is generally anticipated that Mr. Tobey will be renominated postmaster of Boston on the recoming of Congress, and that his nomination will be readily confirmed.

The entire line of the completed New York, West Shore and Buffalo Railroad was opened to passengers and freight traffic on the 1st inst, last Tuesday, as promised.

The meeting of the Massachusetts Legislature on Wednesday was attended with perhaps as disagreeable and trying weather and walking as is ever seen by a legislative body in Boston.

President Lincoln issued his emancipation proclamation on the 1st of January twenty-one years ago. It was the fruit of the pledge given by him in the preceding September.

The venerable Marshall P. Wilder delivered his seventeenth annual address before the New England Historic Genealogical Society, at its annual meeting in this city on Wednesday.

There were 235 failures in Boston, in 1883 the total amount being nearly 21 millions, only 8 millions below the aggregate in value of the failures of New York and Brooklyn for the same time.

A bill has been promptly introduced in the New York legislature, requiring that all telegraph, telephone, and electric light wires, in cities of 500,000 population, shall be placed underground before Nov. 1885.

The State House was freshened and brightened up very much preparatory to the advent of the new Legislature. A new carpet is laid in Representatives' Hall, ano other improvements are apparent on every side.

The House committee on military affairs in Congress has voted to report favorably the bill that passed the Senate last winter, providing for the restoration of Fitz John Porter to the retired list of the army, with the rank of Colonel.

THE YEAR'S RESULTS.

While anything like even a partially detailed statement of the business of 1883 in its various branches would be voluminous at best, it cannot be wholly uninteresting to go over again some of the salient features of its activity, that we may see at a glance what has really been done. The rather free prophesies that 1883 would be only a repetition of 1873, were in no sense realised. The last year, taken with the one immediately preceding it, was one of very great general productiveness, the two years together showing much larger results in this respect than any ever known to the country. It also appears that besides agricultural production, these two years have seen more of the precious metals, of coal, iron, and copper taken out of the earth, a larger amount of manufacturing, a greater extent of railroad building, more commerce with other nations, the erection of a larger number of factories and mills, the payment of a larger amount of the public debt, the contraction of more corporate and individual indebtedness, and a vastly larger increase in the general consumption of commodities, than any similar term since the country began its history.

All sides have to allow that agriculture is both the basis and the motive of the country's prosperity. In 1883 we raised 1,550,000,000 bushels of corn, against 1,625,000,000 bushels in 1882; 410,000,000 bushels of wheat, against 510,000,000 bushels in 1882; and 6,000,000 bales of cotton, against 6,800,000 bales in 1882. Putting these products of the two years together, one gets some sort of an adequate idea of the productive capacity of the soil of the country. In point of trade, however, the activity and total amount failed to correspond to the productive activity. Taken as a whole, it was a positively sluggish year in point of trade; and although railroad transportation was of a very large volume, and manufactured products were handled in greatly increased quantities, the actual profits were so much smaller as to make the total trade show more meagre results than in many years. The reports of the country's exchanges supply satisfactory proof that the aggregate decline at the leading clearing-houses was a very marked one, that is still awaiting correction and revival.

We produced more coal in 1883 than in 1882. Our shipments of iron ore from the principal mines fell off from those of the previous year. Our railroad construction was but about 6,000 miles against the 10,000 miles of 1882. And in copper, silver, and gold, the diminution in the production was very considerable. Of course a general and persistent diminution in production must sooner or later compel a modification in the current of labor, causing it to change its channels and direct its course after new methods. At the middle of the year, July 1st., the country's population was over 54 millions, say 54,800,000, of which the year's increase from immigration was 560,000, against 712,542 in 1882. The Government sold 16,830,455 acres of public lands during the fiscal year ending July 1st, 1883, receiving from it eight millions of dollars. This was more than four million more acres than the number sold in 1882, and more than twice the number sold in 1881.

The failures of the year were much more numerous, and for a much larger amount, than for the previous year, showing that the work of liquidation is steadily proceeding. There are more banks under the law of 1882 than there were before, with a decrease of deposits and an increase of loans, though neither is sufficient to call for remark. The public debt has been rapidly reduced, the total reduction for the year being about 100 millions. This fact excites increased attention in financial circles, in regard to the basis of the national bank circulation. Gold has appreciated, owing to its having become the standard in all the leading commercial countries and to the steady falling off in its production the world over. This is seen in the increased quantity of commodities which it will purchase,—in other words, in the lower prices of all articles of consumption. The stock market has shown great depression, and the losses in it have been immense, especially for the last quarter of the year. The year closed with an easy money market, rates being almost at the lowest, with no attractive openings for the investment of January dividends. As in past years, agriculture alone will this year sustain the entire fabric on its shoulders.

Personal.—On examination of the contents of the Official Journal of Proceedings (just issued) of the Seventeenth Annual Session of the National Grange held at Washington during November, 1883, we are gratified to learn that BENJAMIN P. WARE, Master of Massachusetts Grange No. 33, was recognized as honorary member of the National Grange, Patrons of Husbandry.

MILK ADULTERATION.

The State Board of Health is manifesting great activity on this subject, besides making vigorous efforts to put a stop to the adulteration of food and medicines. Continued observation shows the real necessity for the present law prohibiting adulteration. The Board says that Boston is supplied with the poorest milk of any city or town in the State. A Chelsea dealer stands convicted of selling the worst of all. his being found to be about 60 per cent. water. Worcester and Lawrence have the best milk furnished of any places in the State. Samples from a number of dealers were found to be well above the State statute, while very few fell below. The statute prescribes for the standard 13 per cent of solid matter, which is a high one, not to be found practically anywhere in Massachusetts or out. Samples are usually purchased by agents of the Board from milk carts, groceries, and milk dealers at their places of business. They are then subjected by a competent chemist to a thorough test, it being a perfect analysis and a determination of the component elements. Adulterated milk is reported to be found much oft ner than pure milk.

In all such cases the seller receives a formal warning, in which he is referred to the statutes, acts of 1882 and 1883. The same form of warning is made to apply to those who deal in adulterated food and medicine. The Board aims not to inculpate innocent dealers, who have purchased milk already adulterated without knowing it. But they make no such distinction with manufacturers and wholesalers in the milk trade. Those who manufacture chemicals, spices, drugs, or cream tartar, for instance, receive no such notice, or warning, because they of course know the quality of the goods they produce. They are dealt with according to law at once. The Board do not believe, however, that milk adulteration is practised much, if any, by the farmers, who are regarded as prima facie the honest men of all in the case. It is usually the middlemen who are the adulterators, and the innocent dealers are therefore always allowed a chance to defend themselves against them. The farmers were the most vigorous supporters of the law last winter, before the legislature, and showed the most solicitude to have a statute to prevent and punish milk adulteration.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Both houses of the Legislature assembled and organized on Wednesday, at 11 A. M., and the senate elected Senator Bruce President, while the House re-elected Speaker Marden as Speaker. Governor elect Robinson tendered to Gov Butler the resignation of his seat in Congress The other officers of the two branches were re-elected, as last year, the House chaplain alone excepted. The weather being extremely unpropitious, the gathering of eight scers on the annual occasion was not so large as usual. The Legislature, with the Gov. elect and Gov. Butler, were escorted, in spite of a really dreadful condition of the streets, from the State House to the Columbus Avenue Universalist Church, and listened to the election sermon by Rev. Dr. Miner. The Houses adjourned, before leaving for the church, to eleven o'clock on Thursday morning, when Gov. Robinson was inaugurated in the presence of both of them; the other State Officers were likewise sworn at the same time, After this the Legislature settled down to regular business, though everything now awaits the formation of the standing committees.

Vinegar Adulteration.—It becomes the farmers and the fruit growers of the State to bestir themselves for early and effective action before the present Legislature. When they combine and show that they are in earnest, as much so as the representatives of other interests, they are sure of recognition and a good deal more. The cider-vinegar question is one of very great importance in the State, and it should have the advocates of a pure and unadulterated article promptly and prominently in sight of both legislative branches. What was attempted to be done, and what was really done, in the last Legislature, is matter of common knowledge. An efficient bill on the subject of adulteration passed the House by a large majority, but the the Senate killed it in a manner not easy to be forgotten. Hence there must be fresh application to the legislature this winter. We appeal to the farmers of the State to be alive at all points to their own interests in the Legislature, and to take early and combined action in behalf of an interest of such importance as cider vinegar and its adulteration. There are likewise many other interests which they should look constantly after, before the legislature, with an eager and even jealous watchfulness.

Vermont Dairymen's Association.—The next annual winter meeting of the Vermont Dairymen's Association will be held at St. Johnsbury, January 23 and 24. An excellent programme will be offered, and the meeting (the first on that side of the State) is expected to be more than usually interesting. An exhibition of butter is to be made, and particulars given next week.

☞ *The Boston Almanac and Directory* for 1884 has been promptly issued by Sampson, Davenport & Co., at the price of $1. in an exceedingly convenient and compact form, accompanied with a great number of typographical and other attractions. It is too well known a city manual to all citizens to be overlooked for want of a necessity for it which none fail to feel. What must really be known, and known quickly, by those who seek to guide their course through the city in the many lines of existence and activity, is here provided in such form that it cannot be missed when looked for. The sufficient index unlocks every secret the directory contains, and does it readily. The Boston Almanac is a book to satisfy constant reference, and hence should be in every household People who are not residents, but who are in the habit of coming to Boston frequently during the year, will find in this little Directory, every question instantly answered which they can reasonably ask.

☞ *Ross, Turner, and Company*, 189 to 195 Devonshire street, and 32 to 36 Arch street, Boston, dealers in threads, twines, cords, yarns, tapes, webbing, etc., have issued a very large and impressive Calendar for 1884, each month in conspicuous figures on a single page, the whole in pamphlet form. It will be found very convenient through the year, besides serving as a worthy remembrancer of this enterprising firm to all who have occasion to consult the calendar.

☞ *The Oliver Chilled Plow Works*, of South Bend, Ia., distribute a very handsome card for the New Year, beautifully illuminated, on which are inscribed their compliments. The figures are very striking and the general design in exquisite taste.

☞ *Studebaker brothers* Manufacturing Co., of South Bend, Indiana, have issued a lithographed sheet of music, with their compliments, entitled "Wait for the Wagon." It is unique and striking in every view.

— It is suggested that the government, in order to put its idle accumulation of silver dollars in circulation, should retire all of its own notes of less than five dollars.

"The narrowing ugliness of work done by the type writer," is the way in which a local contemporary relieves itself of an opinion.

— A Chicago paper published, on New Year's day, a list of well to do bachelors, with descriptions of their persons, etc., for the benefit of marriageable maids.

— A number of distinguished painters in England have been made knights before this, but never before has a poet been made a peer. Punch says, the Queen ennobled Tennyson in order to induce him to change his present overworn dress for a better one of a newer style.

READ AND RUN.

— The entire property of the New York and New England Railroad has been placed in the hands of a receiver, who is the newly elected President, Charles F. Clark.

— The Democratic members of the Ways and Means Committee of Congress are reported to have all expressed themselves in favor of a large reduction of duties, but no bill is to be framed until the subject has been talked over in full meeting.

— The Boston board of aldermen have voted to appropriate $250,000 for water meters and other wants of the water department.

— Watch-night meetings were held in many of the churches of the city on the last night o the year.

— El Mahdi, the false prophet, is reported to be ready to make a descent upon Egypt proper, and the situation is said to be daily becoming more critical.

— The prospects for introducing a republican system in Spain are not thought to be at all favorable.

— There were 9184 failures in the United States during 1883, as against 6738 in 1882.

— The reduction of the public debt for December amounted to about 12 millions.

— The municipal criminal court of Boston disposed of over 17,000 cases last year.

— An English critic thinks that Galatea, the piece in which Mary Anderson has won so much applause in London, impresses one as being Parisian rather than Athenian.

— Cooperation, which has taken such deep root in the English colliers, has so far achieved no similar result in this country.

— Count Von Moltke is described as old, dry, and taciturn; a recluse, living enclosed in his egotism, and impatient of being disturbed in his tranquility. He is four score years of age, and is said never in the course of his long life either to have obliged anyone or to have been under an obligation to anybody.

— Mr. Parnell is seldom seen in Ireland, and his London residence is not known to over a half dozen persons.

— A Baltimore inebriate practises the habit of falling overboard from the wharf, and, after being fished out, of taking up a collection from the crowd gathered, the proceeds of which he carries promptly to the nearest barroom.

— A writer in the British Medical Journal explains to agriculturists that the reason why cattle drink impure water is that they are not properly supplied with salt. In their desire for salt, they will even eat earth.

— The servant-girl topic is being revived again hereabouts and elsewhere.

— There is to be another ice carnival at Montreal, seeing that the one held last winter was so successful. It is expected to come off this month.

— C. P. Huntington once wrote of Jay Gould that he thought him the worst man to do anything with he ever knew.

— Selling whiskey is said to be a lucrative trade in the California State Prison.

— The project is reviving of flooding the Desert of Sahara and thus opening Central Africa to commerce and civilization. It is assumed that letting the waters of the ocean into that desert would improve the soil, the climate, and the sanitary condition of the continent of Africa.

— The depression in business is described as being as great in London, Amsterdam, Paris and Frankfort, as in the United States.

— The balance in favor of the United States, in the foreign trade of 1883, was $118,603,288 larger than in 1882.

— Joseph Longworth, a son of Nicholas Longworth, the famous grape grower and wine maker of Cincinnati, died recently at the age of 76. He was extremely benevolent, and practised some of the finest charities.

— The pumps were set in motion, on New Year's morning, at Old Harbor Point, that are to lead the sewage of Boston out into deep tide water. The works cost a little over 4½ millions.

— It is to be said of the leading industries of the country that they are simply getting down to hard pan. Business, the country over, has been very dull.

— For the last two months of 1883, nearly 75 per cent. of the failures occurring in the country have been those of traders rated at less than $5000.

— The existing financial situation is probably more in favor of the banks than any which has existed for a long time at the close of a business year. It is declared to be impossible to have such a network of failures occur again in the coming year as have occurred within the last six months.

— The annual meeting of the Mass. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children will be held on the 8th inst., for the election of officers and for other purposes.

— If the crops of the last year were not as large as they were in 1882, the fears entertained at the beginning of the year were steadily dissipated, and they ultimately proved a great deal larger than the estimates.

— The labor congress recently held in Toronto was decidedly hostile to all assisted immigration schemes, for the reason that they are unjust to native workmen, since men were imported when wages were low, and thousands were forced to idleness.

— The business of counterfeiting paintings of distinguished artists is carried on to an enormous extent in Paris.

— A solution of the London problem is proposed, by fixing the lower boundary of Egypt at the 15th parallel of north latitude, and asking Abyssinia to maintain the ports on the south shores of the Red Sea in Egypt's interest. But such a port as one of these happens to be just what Abyssinia wants for herself.

— The government of Russia is meditating active and radical measures for the suppression of the great evils of intemperance in that empire. There is a drinking-shed in the country districts and villages, to every 224 inhabitants, and in the towns to every 120 persons. The annual consumption of brandy averages ten quarts for every man, woman, and child in the empire.

— A new law of parliament went into effect on New Year's Day, which imposes a fine of $100 on every tradesman who uses the royal arms, or an imitation of the same, without the consent either of government or the royalty.

— The Springfield Republican well observes that "a happy new year depends on the same conditions as a happy old one; there is no barrier of difference between what it is good to do and what to forbear to do from one sequence of figures to another."

— The queen's bench in England has decided that a marriage with a deceased wife's niece is illegal.

— It is rightly called an extravagant policy that dumps the fertilizing refuse of a large city into the sea.

— The past year has been one of prosperity for the petroleum trade, from every point of view.

— Henry Villard, it is now stated on authority, has resigned the presidency of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

— The Harbor Grace rioting, growing out of quarrels between Orangemen and Catholics is far from being ended yet.

— Gen. Grant, at writing, is improving from his recent fall, though as yet unable to sit up in bed.

— The total payments made by the City Treasurer of Boston on the 1st, inst. were $1,566,008.24.

— The year 1883 will be remembered as a year of anxiety and uncertainty in business.

— The scheme of annexing Watertown to Boston is again brought forward.

— Italian opera has been running in Boston for the past two weeks.

— The prices of holiday goods are fast giving way, as the new year advances.

— The foreign exhibition in Boston closes with the present week.

— New Year's rarely finds the money market in so good condition or so abundantly supplied.

— Wheat is reported at the present time as cheaper in Liverpool than in this country.

— Massachusetts allows an annual expenditure of $2000 for the enforcement of the laws against the adulteration of milk.

— The Fall River line has discontinued its Sunday night boats to New York.

— Philadelphia did better in the building line last year, by 1500 buildings than she did in 1882.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Remarkable Improvement in the Case of a Physician's Daughter.

A physician in the State of New York, whose daughter was in the rapid decline, sends us a report which we give, showing a prompt arrest of the disease and a rapid return healthward.

"Your Home Treatment was duly received, and my daughter immediately commenced its use, stopping all other treatment. *The results are marvelous indeed.* She says that *she feels nearly well*, except that she has some cough yet. You will see by reference to my former letter that she had a severe bad train of symptoms. *The physicians whom I called to see her pronounced it a case of Tuberculosis, and gave a short opinion that she could not recover.* She had had a cough for a year; was very hoarse; *had a severe pain in right side; chill for last two months, with night sweats, emaciation, weakness, and loss of appetite*, and nervousness; *could not sleep at all; pulse a hundred and one at times*; respiration about twenty-five to thirty. She began to improve about one week from the time she commenced the Oxygen Treatment, and has continued up to the present time. *All the bad symptoms enumerated have passed off. I cannot find words to express my gratitude.*"

Our "*Treatise on Compound Oxygen*," contains a history of the discovery and mode of action of this remarkable curative agent, and a large record of surprising cures in Consumption, Catarrh, Neuralgia, Bronchitis, Asthma, etc., and a wide range of chronic diseases, will be *sent free*. Address DRS STARKEY & PALEN, 1109 and 1111 Girard St., Philadelphia.

Massachusetts Horticultural society.—At the meeting for discussion to be held Saturday, Jan. 5, the subject will be "Manures—their Preparation and Application." As this will be of more interest to farmers than the subjects which have preceded it we shall hope to see more of them present, and that among them will be those who will have something of interest and value to contribute for the information of others.

WINTER EXCURSION TICKETS.—In view of the increasing popularity of winter trips to the seaside and to Florida, and the demand for round trip tickets to the prominent resorts, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, commencing Tuesday, JANUARY 1st, 1884, will place on sale, at principal stations, excursion tickets to Cape May, Cape May Point, Atlantic City, Old Point Comfort, Va., and Jacksonville, Florida. These excursion tickets will be entitled to all the privileges of other first class tickets, and permit the holder to stop off en route where such privilege is granted on other first class tickets. The return coupons of these tickets will be accepted until May 31st, 1884, except those to Jacksonville, which, under certain circumstances, have special limitations, details of which, as well as a copy of an illustrated pamphlet containing rates and appropriate descriptive matter, can be obtained upon application to nearest ticket agent.

— The White House was the scene of a series of brilliant reception, on New Year's day, the President being assisted by a large number of ladies.

5,000 BEATTY ORGANS SHIPPED.—During the past three months Mayor Beatty, the enterprising organ and piano builder of Washington, N. J., shipped 5,000 cabinet organs from his factory to all parts of the globe, as follows: September, 1,600; October, 1,800; November (two holidays) 1,600—total, 5,000. It is said that this is by far the largest shipment of organs made there by any organ builder in America for the same length of time, and it is proof that the public are buying Beatty's organs in preference to other makes.

He agrees to ship the organ that is advertised in this issue the same day we receives the order, for forty $500 in greenbacks. This is enterprise, and to the man who wants an organ for a holiday present it is a decided bargain.

— Mario, the great tenor, was seventy five years of age when he died recently in Rome, and was allowed an annuity of $200 per month by his English admirers.

☞ If you feel dull, drowsy, debilitated, have sallow color of skin, yellowish brown spots on face or body, frequent headache or dizziness, bad taste in mouth, internal heat or chills alternated with hot flushes, low spirits and gloomy forebodings, irregular appetite, and tongue coated, you are suffering from "torpid liver," or "biliousness." In many cases of "liver complaint" only part of these symptoms are experienced. A few up for all such cases Dr Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery" has no equal, as it effects perfect and radical cures. At all drug stores.

— The total liabilities of the failures throughout the country for 1883, which are set down at $172,874,172, are more than double those of either 1881 or 1880, and about 71 millions in excess of those of 1882.

☞ The compliments of the season—colds, coughs, catarrh—may be effectively dealt with by taking Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. To neglect prompt treatment for these ailments is to risk consumption, which is said to cause one-sixth of the mortality of all civilized countries.

— The poet Saxe, who is a confirmed invalid, is said to have more of the look at present of a man of eighty than of a little more than sixty years, which is his real age.

☞ BREAKFAST COCOA, as a beverage, is universally conceded superior to all other drinks for both weary man or debilitated woman. Its most delicate. The preparations of Walter Baker & Co., have long been the standard of merit in this country, and our readers who purchase "*Baker's Breakfast Cocoa*" will find it a most beautiful, delicious and invigorating beverage.

— F. Shaw & Brothers are reported to have settled with their New York creditors, who had combined to test the assignment of the firm to Wyman. This is said to remove the chief obstacle to a full settlement.

☞ The attention of our readers is respectfully called to the advertisement, in another column, of D. M. Ferry & Co., Detroit, Mich., the celebrated seedsmen. They do the largest business in their line in the United States; raise the bulk of their seed on their own farms, by the most approved methods, and have obtained a world-wide reputation for the quality and variety of the seed they put upon the market, and their integrity in filling all orders entrusted to them. Their beautiful Seed Annual for 1884, sent free to all who apply for it, will be found a practical value to all who desire to purchase seeds true to name.

— The London restaurants which are most over crowded are those which supply the public with only vegetable articles of diet, or, at least, with nothing that has involved the taking away of animal life.

☞ Dr. Graves' Heart Regulator cures all forms of Heart Disease, nervousness and sleep lessness. jan5 2t

— The lower part of the city of Montreal is flooded, and immense damage has been done to property, owing to a very high rise in the water caused by the blocking of the ice in the river front.

THE THROAT.—"*Brown's Bronchial Troches* acts directly on the organs of the voice. They have an extraordinary effect in all disorders of the throat.

— The minstrel festival began in Cincinnati on the last night of the year, to continue through the week. The leading performers were from Haverly's and Callender's minstrels.

☞ Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has for one thousands of women more good than the medicine of many doctors.

— The new year is reported to have been welcomed in New York by Young America with a vigor hardly exceeded by that manifested for the entrance of the centennial year.

THIRTEEN YEARS' DYSPEPSIA.

"I suffered with dyspepsia for 13 years," writes John Albright, E-q., of Columbus, Ohio. "*Samaritan Nervine* cured me." As it always cures such disorders. At druggists.

— Professor Swift, director of the Warner Observatory at Rochester, N. Y., asserts that the red sunsets are due to the extraneous matter which has come into our atmosphere, and which reflects the red rays of the sun.

☞ Young or middle-aged men suffering from nervous debility, loss of memory, premature old age, as the results of bad habits, should send three stamps for Part VII of Dime Series pamphlets. Address WORLD'S DISPENSARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, Buffalo, N. Y.

MARRIAGES.

In this city, Dec. 25th, by Rev. Brooke Herford, Andrew J. Brown to Fannie A. Prime, both of N. H., to Miss Adelia M. Merriam of Framingham.

In Beverly, Dec. 2 1th, by Rev. E. W. Preble, Mr. William T. Lothard of Cambridgeport to Miss Nellie G. Taylor of Beverly.

In West Somerville, Dec. 20th, by Rev. C. W. Biddle of North Cambridge, Mr. S. Hungerford to Miss C. Maynard, youngest daughter of the late George C. Maynard.

In Washington, D. C., Dec. 31st, by Rev. Floridus A. Steele, Mr. Arthur A. Morton to Miss Kitty T. Rose, both of Quincy, Mass.

In Cambridge, Dec. 31st, by Rev. G. R. Leavitt, John August Nilsson to Harriet H. Jewell, all of Cambridge.

In Newbury, Dec. 24th, by Rev. Omar W. Folsom, Mr. Charles H. Bunce of Newburyport to Miss Melinda B. Lunt of Newbury.

In Newburyport, Dec. 25th, by Rev. D. T. Fiske, D. D., Mr. Merriman C. Coffin to Miss Eliza M. Coffin both of Newburyport.

DEATHS.

In this city, Dec. 29th, Elvira, widow of the late Sewall Brackett, 78 years 9 months.

In Boston Highlands, Dec. 27th, Francis M. Adams, 39 years.

In Lexington, Dec. 27th, Mary Forbes, widow of the late John Davis, 88 years 2 months.

In this city, Dec. 28th, Thomas B. Patten, 4 years 3 days.

In South Newmarket, N. H., Daniel Edwin Smith, Esq., 84 years.

In Hingham, Dec. 28th, Martin Beals, Stoddard 85 years.

In Danvers, Dec. 28th, Capt. John M. Boyson, 0 years 17 days.

In Bartlett, N. H., Dec. 28th, Mr. Fox Dinsmore, 80 years 2 months 11 days.

In Swampscott, Dec. 31st, Mrs. Martha Palmer, widow of the late Abraham Palmer, in the 90th year.

In Waltham, Dec. 31st, Martha M., widow of the late John Sanderson, 63 years 1 month.

In Lowell, Dec. 31st, Mrs. Abraham Tilton, formerly of Lowell, 84 years 3 months.

BOSTON PROVISION MARKET.

Pork and Lard.—The movement is pocked pork is moderate, lighter, both for the home and export trade, and prices are steady and unchanged. Long cuts at $17 00@18 50 ₱ bbl; short cuts at $18 00@18 50 ₱ bbl; backs at $18 50@19 00; light backs at $17 50@18 00; leans ends at $17 50@18 00; prime mess, new at $17 00; extra prime at $15 50; mess new at $16 00@16 50; old at $15 00@15 50; pork tongues at $17 00@18 00. Lard at 9½@9¾c ₱ lb in tierces; 9¾@10c in 10-lb pails; 10@10½c in 5-lb pails, and 10½@10¾c in 3-lb pails. Hams—Medium and large at 12@12½c ₱ lb; small at 13@13¼c; smoked shoulders at 8@8½c, and smoked ribs at 8@8½c ₱ lb; rio breakfast bacon at 12@12½c; boneless breakfast at 12½@13c; pressed hams at 12@12½c. Dressed hogs, city at 8c ₱ lb, and country at 7c, and live hogs at 6@6¼c ₱ lb.

Beef.—Is also quiet at previous prices. Extra plate beef at $15 00@15 50 ₱ bbl; plate at $14 00@14 50 ₱ bbl; extra family at $15 00@15 50; extra mess at $13 00; mess at $11 50@12 00 ₱ bbl; beef hams at $24 00; beef tongues, in bbls, $20 00@21 00, and in half bbls at $10 50@11 50. Fresh beef—Fair steers at 6@6¼c ₱ lb; choice at 6½@6¾c ₱ lb; bone Texan cattle at 4½@4¾; good heavy hinds at 12@13c; second quality at 10½@12c; good heavy fores at 6½@6¾c ₱ lb; fancy at 7c; second quality at 5@5½c; rattles at 4½@5c; ribs at 6@8½c; rumps at 12@14c; rounds at 7½@9½c; rump loins at 15½@17c; loins at 18@20c; tight at 12@13c ₱ lb. Other fresh meats.—Are in fair demand, and while light in the in ample supply, good stock is in small supply. There has been a fair trade in lamb and mutton at steady prices. Choice lambs at 9½@10c ₱ lb; common to good at 6@8c ₱ lb; choice heavy mutton at 8½@9c ₱ lb; light at 4½@7c ₱ lb; Eastern veal, choice at 11@12c; common to good at 8@10c; Worcester county at 12@13c.

Cattle Markets.

BRIGHTON AND WATERTOWN.

Reported expressly for the Mass. Ploughman.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING Jan. 5.

Amount of stock at market:—

	Beeves.	Sheep.	Shoats	Fat Hogs.	Veal.
This week.	1973	8,789	13	14 910	280
Last week.	1710	9,367	66	15,512	137
One yr ago	1592	11,040	110	10,810	228

Horses.... 170

Prices.

Beef—per lb's lbs. on total weight of hide, tallow and meat, extra, $8 00@8 50; first quality, $7 00@7 50; second quality, $6 00@6 50; third quality, $5 00@5 50; a few choice single pairs, $9 00@9 50; some of the poorest, bulls, &c., $4 00@4 50.

Working Oxen.—$100@200 ₱ pair; choice steers, $70@140 or much according to their value for beef.

Cows and Young Calves.—Fair quality, $20@30; extra, $40@45; farrow and dry, $17@31.

Fancy Cows, $60@90.

Stores.—Thin young cattle for farmers—yearlings, $12 00@20 00; two-year olds, $14@27; three-year old, $24@43.

Sheared sheep—Per lb, live, 2½@4 cts; extra 4½@5c. Sheep and lambs, dressed, 5½@6½c. Spring Lambs @ 6½ lb. Sheared sheep—@ c. Lambs 8@9c ₱ lb.

Fat Calves.—Per lb 5½@6 cts, live weight, Shoats, wholesale, dc; retail, 8@9c. N Y Cities, or Northern Dressed Hogs, 7@7½c. Suckling pigs, 4@5c.

Veal Calves.—5½@7c. ₱ lb.

Hides—Brighton, 6½@7c; country hides, 6@6½c; Brighton, 6@6½c; country lots, 6@6½c; dairy skins, 50@60c.

Tallow—Brighton, 3@3½c; country lots, 3@3½c; cakes, 3@4c; each; country lots, 75@$1 25 each; dairy skins, 25@50c.

Pelts—Sheep, 75c each; Lamb Skins, 60@ each.

CATTLE AND SHEEP FOR SEVERAL STATES.

	Beeves.	Sheep.		Beeves.	Sheep.
Maine.....	118		New York..	34	600
N. Hampshire	93	462	Ass & Conn		
Vermont.....	169	248	Western..	1365	4,600
Massachusetts	91	457	Canada.....		
Liverpool.....					
Total.....				1972	8,789
Left over.....					

CATTLE AND SHEEP AT RAILROAD.

	Beeves.	Sheep.		Beeves.	Sheep.
Fitchburg.	461	1124	Eastern..	137	
Lowell....	241	4664	Hoodl Maine		
Boston & Lb.	1113	4,000	Cattle sales	50	
N Y & N E..			Boston & Prov		
Total.....				1972	8,789

**Dr

Hern·Science Skepticism

Skepticism done for the world? but to suggest doubt. It has even that Rheumatism cannot be cured. is as bad as Rheumatism.

Science done for the world? many things; for instance, it has Rheumatism can be cured. own that Neuralgia can be got rid of. ience has proved that Rheumatism is ase, and has provided ATHLOPHOROS dy which can completely cure it. ved that although the old doctors ecome Neuralgia, ATHLOPHOROS can ed eradicate it from the system. ved that though these tormenting ere so slow and obstinate, they can e in a little while by means of

Hlophoros!

skeptical. If you have any doubts as ATHLOPHOROS can do, write to some of n it has cured. For instance, Rev. S. D. D., Pastor Third Congregational New Haven, Conn., the Rev. W. P. tor George St., M. E. Church, of New Rev. J. E. Searles, pastor Willett St., h, New York city, Mr. Brummell, the candy manufacturer, of New York, ngelow, of Connecticut, and many

ot get ATHLOPHOROS of your druggist, If it cannot be had, remit (regular dollar per bottle. We prefer that you druggists, but if he hasn't it, do not to try something else, but order at once ipressed.

ROS CO., 112 WALL ST., NEW YORK.

EXPOSITION OF SHERMAN'S TURE CURE.

ERMAN—Dear Sir: nce with your treatment is very grati- ailed on you about eight months ago, a right side scrotal rupture. I had previously, and from the use of them ated pain. From the day you adjusted e to say case I have felt the greatest ge the application of your Curative y improvement has been such as to ursue my business—which is both ac- attended without inconvenience; and wear your appliance, it is chiefly be- be certain of a cure before leaving it

I have derived from your treatment, ne cure which I feel has been effected, a hundredfold for the outlay. This dispose me to recommend your treat- fficted, believing that it will benefit as me if they adhere to your instruc- F. W. FLANDERS. ct. 14, 1883.

UPTURE

ured without operation, interference he injury trusses inflict. Photographs force and after cure can be seen at Dr AN'S office of the Rupture Cure, 63 Dury days of consultation, Wednesday Friday of each week. Dr. S.'s book nials of physicians, clergymen, mer- and others who have been cured by the above. Principal Office, 251 ng the library. Parlors open daily, and Saturday of each week.

QUARTERS FOR TEIN CATTLE. 1281

ported and Bred by HS & POWELL, nest quality and breeding on hand for the Season of 1883-4. d at N. Y. State Fair 1879, 1881, 1882

ock selected by a member of the ferings for most noted herds and cep- ms of Holland, without regard to

DALE AND TONIAN HORSES

quality and highest breeding. ed Catalogue, address HS & POWELL, e Stock Farm, SYRACUSE, N. Y. you saw this advertisement in the ock Farm. oct13-1tcow

PURE BRED SHIRE SWINE, IGH GRADE KSHIRE SWINE, & Holstein Cattle,

and for sale. Write for what you ore farm. HAS. W. WORCOTT, Readville, Mass.

RRIAGES.

ery Low Prices.

riages of different styles and prices from the best materials and in the workmanship, now offered to dividuals at extremely low prices, in ion for Weights and to propriate ing will find them elves roundly in e Stewart's carriage Establish ishing at a low price what they give, so to speak, for next year. ages are kept in stock ready for deliv- ons of the Penn'sman who keeps car- it in their service will do well to vis- your delay and secure veritable bar-

ST & CART & CO., 41 and 43 Union St., Boston. Factory, 13 Green St., Boston.

anted to Rent,

ble Farm under good cultivation, to work the same. Would hire one ter by a Hay Farm within 10 Address J. WOLDYARD, Newton, Mass.

TS

MAKE BIG PAY among furnishers. Circulars free. C. F. DEMMER, New Ha- oct6-4t

Gentlemen send 1-c. for 50 fine cards, wt is name, to Sea Shore Card Conn. dec29-13t

rm for Sale.

County Farm, of 475 acres, Warren, Bristol County, R. I. grain. Water, houses, and- orchard. Fifteen acres of apple- ily from first settlement. Non- attractive, good neighborhood, in d, on line of Newport & Fall Rivers and Poughkeepsie, Boston and

said, will be offered at Auction Jan- 12 o'clock noon, at Rick's Hotel, n, R. I. Also, Information apply to Mrs. Julia wab B. Warren, Bangall, Dutchess N. A. W. BAILEY, New Lebanon, Y. dec15-3t

AP FARMS AR MARKETS.

chigan has more than 4,500 miles 500 miles of Lake transportation, hes in every county, public build- and no debt. Its soil and climate ure large crops, and it is the best Northwest. Several million acres fertile lands are yet in the market The State has issued a NEW K containing a map and descrip- crops and general resources of e State, which may be had free of to the COMM'R OF IMMIGRATION, ngton. oct10-16t

USTRY, ---can register them

Owners of Farms one dollar until sold. This is the e for selling or letting property, ion of your Farm, with price and ne dollar, when a receipt will be ieties in pursuit of a Farm, will find by calling at the Farm Registry of No. 13 Temple Place, Boston dec1-y

Keepers Attention.

List of Poultry supplies, such as pe, Cracked Bone, Bone shells, etc. Ground fresh at C. A. BARTLETT, Hillsboro Ave., Worcester, Mass.

We will send a WATCH or CHAIN BY MAIL OR EXPRESS, C. O. D., to be examined before paying any money, and if not satisfactory, returned at our expense. We manufacture all our watches and warrant 20 per cent. Catalogue of 200 styles free. Evans' Watch Manufactory, Agency. STANDARD AMERICAN WATCH CO., PITTSBURGH, PA.

Fifteen Years' Practical Experience in the New Tailor System of Cutting. Circulars free. Address Prof. ROBERT H. CLEMENTS & CO., Richmond, Ind. dec1-y

A Farms for Sale. Catalogue free. Maps of Va. 25 cts. H. L. Staples & Co. Richmond, Va

Try what home. Samples worth $5 free & Co. Portland, Me.

A Safeguard.

The fatal rapidity with which slight Colds and Coughs frequently develop into the gravest maladies of the throat and lungs, is a consideration which should impel every prudent person to keep at hand a household remedy, a bottle of AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL.

Nothing else gives such immediate relief and works so sure a cure in all affections of this class. That eminent physician, Prof. F. Sweetzer, of the Maine Medical School, Brunswick, Me., says:—

"Medical science has produced no other one preparation so good as AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL. It is invaluable for diseases of the throat and lungs."

The same opinion is expressed by the well-known Dr. L. J. Addison, of Chicago, Ill., who says:—

"I have never found, in thirty-five years of consecutive study and practice of medicine, any combination of so great value as AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL, for the relief of diseases of the throat and lungs. It not only breaks up colds and cures severe coughs, but is more effective than anything else I have ever used in the most serious bronchial and pulmonary affections."

AYER'S
Cherry Pectoral

is not a new claimant for popular confidence, but a medicine which is to-day saving the lives of the third generation who have come to manhood and womanhood since it was first offered to the public.

There is not a household in which this invaluable remedy has not been used, at some time in its history, with the most beneficial results, and there is not a person who has ever given it a proper trial for any form of lung disease susceptible of cure, who has not been made well by it.

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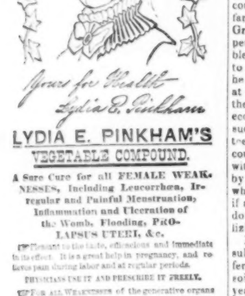

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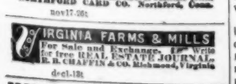

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FARMER'S INSTITUTE.

A Discussion, under the auspices of the Essex Agricultural Society, upon "Fertilizers" and Roots and Vegetables.

[Salem Gazette.]

The first Farmer's Institute of the Essex Agricultural Society was held in the lower hall in the new Peabody town house, Thursday, Dec. 27, 1883. There was a good attendance, including one or two representative farmers from Revere. Mr. Benjamin P. Ware, of Marblehead, presided, and at the morning session the Hon. J. J. H. Gregory of Marblehead opened a discussion upon "Fertilizers." Mr. Gregory spoke at length comparing the value of special fertilizers with barn yard manure, and indorsed the Ames bone and meat fertilizer manufactured in this country. President Ware, Mr. ars. George A Tapley of Revere, Howe of Methuen, Aaron Low of Essex, Lindsey of Marblehead, Smith Batchelder of Peabody, Preston of Danvers, President Brown of the New Hampshire Society, and W. S. Jauvrin of Revere, took part in the discussion. Many new and interesting facts were brought out. At one o'clock the meeting adjourned to dinner at Baldwin's Hotel. Upon reassembling in the afternoon, President Ware opened the speaking upon "Field Culture of Roots and Vegetables," dwelling upon the importance of comparing the methods and systems for raising root crops, and speaking particularly of potatoes, squashes, onions, carrots, mangel wurtzels and cabbages. Mr. James P. King, presided. The subject was discussed by Hon. J. J. H. Gregory of Marblehead, James P. King of Peabody, President Brown of New Hampshire, George A. Tapley and J. S Needham. It was announced that the next institute would be held at Newburyport, January 16. The subject for the morning session will be "Underdraining" to be opened by T. G. Thurlow of West Newbury, and that for the afternoon "The prospect for New England farmers for the next ten years," to be opened by Warren Brown of Hampton Falls, N. H.

"Fertilizers."

Mr. Gregory enumerated the different kinds of fertilizers. He favored their use rather than manure, though that would depend upon what the farmer was going to do with his land. If he was going into market gardening then it was much better to use the fertilizer because of its quicker action upon the soil and the plant's growth. If he were going to lay the land down to grass then he might use manure. He had not studied the effect of the fertilizers with grass as he had with vegetables. He advised farmers in getting fertilizers to get the best. Very many of those manufactured by the large concerns contained insoluble phosphate from South Carolina rock. He preferred the Ames' bone and meat fertilizer manufactured here at home, because, in getting it he knew what he was getting. The phosphate was taken from bone and was more largely soluble, and the steamed bone could be placed upon the land where the farmer knew it would decompose. Mr. Gregory gave several results of his own experiments with cucumbers and other vegetable crops by using the fertilizer. In answer to a query by Mr. G. A. Tapley, of Revere, he thought that with manure at $10 or even at $5 a cord, and fertilizer at $40 per ton, the fertilizer would be the best and most economical to use. It was far cheaper for such crops as corn, beans, onions or potatoes than barnyard manure, and the farmer could not do with the latter what he could with the fertilizer. In answer to a question by ex-President Howe, of Methuen, as to whether the fertilizer will do equally well if applied year after year, he said it would do equally well if the crop got all its fertilizing from the fertilizer applied.

Mr. Aaron Low, of Essex, gave the result of some of his experiments with the fertilizer upon a piece of light dry sandy soil which had not been ploughed for fifty years. He had got as handsome a crop of tomatoes as he had ever seen, by using 8 ockbridge and Ames fertilizers. Corn he had found to produce a larger number of ears to the stalk with the fertilizer than with manure. He had tried Stockbridge, Ames and Bradley fertilizers and Pacific guano, and found the Stockbridge the best, Ames next, and Bradley next. He urged the farmers to analyze their soil themselves by the result of their crops, rather than to have a chemist do it. His experience had been that fertilizers were much the cheapest.

Mr. G. A. Tapley, of Revere, gave his experience with fertilizers in that town, with strong soil. He had tried all kinds of fertilizers, and never had seen any difference except with Peruvian guano mixed with muck.

Mr. Gregory said there was no doubt that was so; that heavy soils would not take the fertilizer and wet right over the soil the gentleman from Revere might have found that the result was very different. There is something in which the soils stock up which antagonizes the fertilizers At the Connecticut experimental station it had been found that the fertilizer did equally well in dry and the wettest seasons.

Mr. Tapley said that he had applied manure taken from cows highly fed with grain at the rate of a peck per cow daily, and it had no more result than if he had put so many chips on his land.

President Ware alluded to the fact that the farmers were indebted to the Massachusetts Agricultural College for the Stockbridge fertilizer, and he introduced Mr. Lindsey, of Marblehead, now employed at the experimental station at Amherst.

Mr. Lindsay gave many interesting facts about fertilizers which he was engaged in analyzing at Amherst. All fertilizers were sold under a guaranty under the law. The trade in them the past year has been very brisk, and they were generally found to be honestly made and up to the guaranty. The station was issuing monthly bulletins giving the analyses of the different fertilizers, fodder, etc., free to each farmer. He considered fertilizer better for the plant because itaction was so much quicker on the soil. Barn yard manure was much slower. In the fertilizer were all the elements of plant food which would affect the plant quickly. He alluded to the physical effect of barnyard manure upon the soil, as rendering it very porous, which the fertilizer had not. Barn yard manure contained 85 per cent. of water, while the fertilizer only contained from 8 to 15 per cent. One did not know what he was buying in barnyard manure. If a man was to be a stock farmer it was well for him to save every particle of his manure.

Mr. Smith, of Newburyport, thought that if a man kept putting his best work and effort into his farm every day he was going to make something out of it.

Mr. Preston, son of Secretary Charles F. Preston of Danvers, and valedictorian at the last commencement at the Agricultural College, gave the result of his experience in the laboratory with fertilizers. He indorsed the fertilizer manufactured in this vicinity because the pho-phoric acid it contained came from the bone, while in the other fertilizers, though coming somewhat from the bone, it came more largely from rock phosphate which was more insoluble and very hard to dissolve. In regard to top dressing on the snow he did not see where the gain came in He did not think there would be any loss upon land where the water would not run away.

Mr. Gregory said that there could nothing run off from the manure so placed, until the manure had undergone a certain change which required time.

Ex-President Howe said with regard to high manuring, that he had planted potatoes on land from which a dung heap had been removed, and got large vines and few potatoes, but in ten years afterward he had seen quite a difference in the grass growing upon such spots.

Mr. Tapley had never seen any good results from his cow manure. His idea was that every farmer was striving to get a new dollar for an old one. If a ton of fertilizer cost $40, couldn't the farmer set to work today and make a bigger heap of manure that for $40 would give better strength. He had manured right beside the piece on which he had applied the cow manure with horse and stable manure, putting on as large a quantity in bulk, and got three good crops of beets, and a crop of spinach off the same land, a thing he had never done before, while on the cow manured piece, he only had one crop of beets. From 1200 square feet of his land he had raised 120 bushels of spinach, and after cutting the spinach and turning over the land, 49 bushels of peppers.

Mr. J. G. Walcott of West Peabody, spoke a good word for cow manure. From cow manure from ensilage he had raised as fine a crop of corn as ever was raised, with some of the stalks measuring twenty feet, and weighing 12 1-2 pounds.

Mr. Batchelder, of Peabody, regarded the Peruvian guano as the best fertilizer he had ever seen. He could not raise potatoes with the other fertilizers.

Mr. Charles P. Preston, of Danvers, believed in patronising home industry, and considered the Ames superphosphate, from his experience, quite equal to any in the market. By the application of muriate of potash, 10, 12 or 20 per cent. with it, he found it the best fertilizer he had ever used. In closing he spoke of the application of fertilizers in the fall, and thought it would be desirable for farmers to know whether there was to be a great loss, and what to use with relation to the crop. Also with regard to orchards whether by the use of special fertilizers they could be kept up in good bearing condition.

Mr. Gregory said in answer that he should make his fertilizer to suit his case. He should in the fall leave out the ammonia and wasteful parts to be put in in the spring, and should put in the nitrogen. He doubted whether rock phosphate was ever soluble, and he indorsed the use of half rotted bone.

Mr. Lindsay spoke of the difference between horse and cow manure; the first being very light, loose and porous, and the latter close, compact and cold. The horse manure would from its nature act more readily.

President Ware showed that farmers would save from 30 to 32 per cent. by mixing their fertilizers themselves.

President Brown of the New Hampshire State Agricultural College, said it always paid for a farmer to make all the manure that he could. The great drawback they had in New Hampshire was something to throw in as an absorbent. He used saw dust for bedding his cattle, and found it aided materially in the handling of the cow manure. He spoke of the apple crop in Rockingham County, and said that Colonel Ware, of Seabrook, had 1000 trees which he had budded himself, and his gross receipts this year were $1800. He had fought the canker worms successfully with hens, and filled his orchard with hen coops. The speaker said he was going to try sheep in his orchard. Bells were found to be effective as a protection of the flock against dogs. With reference to manuring, the land should be made fine and the manure also, and the latter should be put on with a spreader.

Mr. Coan found he got the handsomest corn from Ames' fertilizer.

Mr. William S. Jauvrin, of Revere, had used three tons and 400 pounds of fertilizer to five acres, and got a fine crop of cabbages

The discussion closed with a few words upon meadow mud by Messrs. Tapley, Walcott, Gregory, and Lindsey, in which the mud was spoken of as chiefly valuable as an absorbent. Mr. Walcott had grown up a fine crop upon a meadow by the use of a little sand.

Mr. Brown said he thought he had made a great mistake when he ceased to grow clover, and regarded the latter as the salvation of the grass crop.

The session closed at one o'clock.

"Field Culture of Roots and Vegetables."

Afternoon Session.

In the afternoon there was an interesting discussion upon "Field Culture of Roots and Vegetables." Mr. James P. King called the meeting to order, and introduced Mr. Benjamin P. Ware, of Marblehead, who opened the debate with an address at length, in which he complimented the farmers of Peabody for their success, in their chosen calling, and spoke particularly of Mr. Daniel Buxton, as the man who had cultivated "the best onion the world had ever known, the Danvers Onion." Essex County, he said, might well be proud of producing the best vegetables offered in the market. A few of the squashes originated here, and were brought out by culture or hybridization from Essex County. He alluded in this connection to the Hubbard, Turban and Essex Hybrid squashes, as well as to the Marblehead and Stone-mason cabbages. He said that the present great difficulty with white Essex County farmers had to contend was their help, and the great point with the success in farming was to get along with as little hand labor as possible. He dwelt upon the importance of comparing the methods and systems in use in different localities for success of inference, and then proceeded to review the methods in the successful culture of potatoes, squashes, onions, carrots, mangel wurtzels, and cabbages.

With regard to potatoes he thought that we were still very much in the dark. He recommended cutting so that there should be two eyes to a piece, and planting in drills on newly broken land. Level culture was better than hilling. A short time before the potatoes came up he would give it a good harrowing, and then go over it with a Thomas smoothing harrow, using the cultivator when the vines were a foot high, following this with the drag to smooth the ground. For potato bugs he advocated Paris Green put on with plaster of Paris, putting it in a sheet and rolling it about until the mixture was all of one color. This year he had been applying it wet with water, using a machine much like a fire extinguisher, the long two pipes, and being capable of covering two rows at once. In digging potatoes he used the plough to turn up a furrow each side and then the harrow to take them out.

The squash he regarded as better adapted to Essex County than any other crop. It can be cultivated with less hand labor than any other crop. The land should not be ploughed until the squashes were planted. It was better to plant as late as the 25th of June to escape the mangrot fly which by that time has done its work. Mr. Low's hybrid squash could be planted as late as July 1st to 4th for a late crop. When squashes were planted between the rows of potatoes the leaves would protect the latter from sunburn. He would make the hill complete flat and then pick in the squash seeds with the little finger, five to a hill. He would mix wood ashes or lime for squashes with the same machine as with potatoes. There was no difficulty in the grower's watching. There was also a big black bug which did not seem well nor wash the sponge had been used to advantage. The squashes should be in rows nine feet apart and then the harrow can go between them. When they begin to run they should be thinned down to three plants. With manure from six to eight tons to the acre there could be obtained from eight to ten tons of squashes. The Boston marrow was an excellent squash for pie makers. The turban was also one of the best, the Butman and Marblehead were good fancy varieties, and the Essex hybrid was a grand crop for this vicinity.

Of the onion he said that probably the best kind to sell was the Danvers Onion. Onions to grow well carrots, potatoes or onions themselves, and they grow richer quality year after year. They must be well manured—light or none cords to the acre,—and need careful cultivation and hand weeding. Onions should be in the ground by the 25th of April

The best carrot was the Danvers Intermediate, a cross between the long orange and the short horn carrot. They should be sowed from May 25 to June 10, and the ploughing should not be deep. From three-fourths to one pound of carrot seed was enough for an acre. The truckie hoe should be used. Oct ber was the great growing time for carrots, and he should not harvest them until the 10th to November, taking a warm, sunny day if possible. Mangel wurtzels he regarded as a good crop for milch cows and hogs. They should be planted by the middle of May, and the ground should be in good deal more seed than he wanted to grow. They require a considerable amount of manure.

The cabbage, the speaker considered the most profitable crop, and the Stoneman the best variety. Fottle's Improved was a little early and was very popular, but the Stoneman was more reliable and more profitable. The Improved Savoy was a fine Savoy and good cabbage to raise. There should be a good dressing of manure ploughed in, and turrowed out three feet apart. Air slacked lime should be applied for the back fill. With plenty of hoeing, frequent cultivation and good manuring the cabbage will grow away from all the diseases and evils of plant life. If the cabbages were growing too fast for the market, their growth could be checked by pulling the roots slightly away from the soil. The cabbage was a valuable food for milch cows. He closed by giving an admirable method for heading the waste plants which did not head in the field. This method was the setting of them closely together with roots in the earth, just before the ground freezes, and then covering them with thatch or seaweed. In the spring they will be found closed up, and whiter and nice for the market. The speaker urged upon the farmers the importance of having standard thoroughbred seed of their own raising.

Mr. J. J. H. Gregory said the seedsmen selected their stock seed exactly as did the farmer He thought squashes were better for home raising in drills, and could end in using coal ashes rather than plaster or lime.

Mr. James P. King spoke of the large black bug, and the successful slaughter effected for them. By throwing out the seed end of potatoes he had known fourteen days difference in the growth of the crop. He used Stockbridge fertilizer altogether in the hill with fine results.

President Ware alluded to a fact recently brought out that a red from a car load of Hubbard squashes from Michigan would not grow in this soil, and Mr Tapley, of Revere, said he had grown a splendid crop from seed of such squash es raised in Michigan, and sent on here for canning.

Mr. Gregory said there was no need of transplanting cabbages.

Mr. J. S Needham, of West Peabody, thought that one great point had been left out, and that was the fact that the plants deposited excrements in the soil which was the reason why crops of the same vegetable would not grow on land on which their kind had grown. With reference to heavy manuring, he thought the trouble was that it was ploughed in too deep. Nature always put her manure on top.

The meeting adjourned at five o'clock.

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Jan5 4t

A GREAT OFFER

The "Little Wonder" TIME KEEPER.

Everybody can now own a handsome hunting cased Time Keeper. Not a Humbug but a reliable Time Keeper, which will keep correct all the time of day or night, and cannot be checked by pulling the roots slightly away from the soil. The cabbage was a valuable food for milch cows. He closed by giving an admirable method for heading the waste plants which did not head in the field. This method was the setting of them closely together with roots in the earth, just before the ground freezes, and then covering them with thatch or seaweed. In the spring they will be found closed up, and whiter and nice for the market. The speaker urged upon the farmers the importance of having standard thoroughbred seed of their own raising.

Mr. J. J. H. Gregory said the seedsmen selected their stock seed exactly as did the farmer He thought squashes were better for home raising in drills, and could end in using coal ashes rather than plaster or lime.

Mr. James P. King spoke of the large black bug, and the successful slaughter effected for them. By throwing out the seed end of potatoes he had known fourteen days difference in the growth of the crop. He used Stockbridge fertilizer altogether in the hill with fine results.

President Ware alluded to a fact recently brought out that a red from a car load of Hubbard squashes from Michigan would not grow in this soil, and Mr Tapley, of Revere, said he had grown a splendid crop from seed of such squash es raised in Michigan, and sent on here for canning.

Mr. Gregory said there was no need of transplanting cabbages.

Mr. J. S Needham, of West Peabody, thought that one great point had been left out, and that was the fact that the plants deposited excrements in the soil which was the reason why crops of the same vegetable would not grow on land on which their kind had grown. With reference to heavy manuring, he thought the trouble was that it was ploughed in too deep. Nature always put her manure on top.

The meeting adjourned at five o'clock.

Cut 1-3 size. Little Wonder Time Keeper and a Beautiful Nickel Watch Chain for one subscription to Scribner's Monthly, extended. BABCOCK & CO., CENTERBROOK, CONN.
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MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE,--BOSTON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1884.

The Poet's Corner.

Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman

EMBER PICTURES.

BY ELIZA F. MOMIARTY.

I.

Cloudless and bright the heavens,
Sparkling and blue the sea,
A ship upon the waters
Sailing away from me.
Two little hands are waving
Love's passionate adieu,
Though weary years have vanished,
It all comes back to view.
My wife is seated near me,
I gaze upon her face,
And love her for her beauty,
Her goodness and her grace:
And yet there floats between us
A vision of lost years;
The beauteous love of boyhood
That all the past endears.

The sunshine of contentment
Smiles softly o'er my life;
My purest joy is loving
My fair and cherished wife.
And yet there comes between us
A memory of lost years,
That moves the springs of sorrow
And breaks in sudden tears.
Scowling and dark the heavens,
Heaving and wild the sea—
A shattered hulk is sinking
'Mid tears of agony.
Two hands in anguish wringing
Upon the wreck-strewn shore—
Though long, long years have vanished
It haunts me evermore.

II.

Smiling and clear the heavens,
Peaceful the earth below;
My first love bending o'er me
With blissful words breathed low.
Two thrilling hands are clasping
My own, entreatingly—
These hours, forever vanished,
Still live in memory.
Another now is near me—
The husband of my choice;
I lean my cares upon him,
And in his love rejoice;
And yet there steals between us
A dream of long ago;
I scarcely thought a memory
Could ever move me so.

My life, like some calm river,
Flows toward the Land of Rest;
My husband's fond devotion
The sunshine on its breast,
And yet there drifts between us
A cloud that melts in tears,
Which Memory's breeze hath wafted
Through all the realms of years.
Shrouded and sad the heavens,
Dreary the earth below—
Within its cold, dark bosom,
My first love lying low.
Two hands in prayer uplifted,
Tears falling silently;
Though weary years have vanished,
It all comes back to me.

Ladies' Department.

THE SLEDGE DRIVE TO CHURCH.

A TALE OF NORWAY.

What a strange wild country is old Norway! The brow of the earth, the forehead of the world, as the Scalds of old loved to call it in their songs. Even in the map how singular is that jagged, furrowed, long coastline, stretching above a thousand miles, from the North Cape with its eternal ice, down to a genial latitude of wheat land and flowers. On this vast seaboard water and land seem to have been struggling for the mastery, till at least as an amicable settled by a division of the territory, and the deep fiords run miles inland, and the steep promontories project far out into the ocean. Truly it is a beautiful country, with its great bosses of snow fields, the long windings of the lake like fiords, the roaring Foss and the endless pine forest. Then, too, what strange sights meet the traveller; the midsummer nights' sun never setting, the months of darkness, the shepherd's life in the Saeters, the wandering nomade Laps and their encampments, the bear hunts and the Old World superstitions and customs which linger in the secluded valley.

Norway has still other and more important claims to notice; she is one of those few and favored countries where freedom is enjoyed, and the hardy, prosperous peasantry are living witnesses of the worth of its immemorial institutions. Norway, also, was among the first to snake off the errors of Rome, and to embrace the doctrine of the Reformation. It is true that rationalism and indifference have long chilled the Christian heart of the country, but now it is throbbing with increased vigor, and sending warm streams of life blood to the extremities of the land.

A pleasant farm that of Ravensdal, nestling beneath some sheltering rocks in an inland valley not far from the Arctic circle. The commodious dwelling was of blackened timber adorned with various carvings and pious sayings cut in the beams; while clustering round stood the cottages of the peasants who cultivated the soil. In all the province of Norland there was not a farmer more respected and esteemed, or a more upright, honorable man, than Andreas Jansen, the owner of Ravensdal.

It was early on Sunday morning in midwinter, and the Jansens were preparing to start for church, a drive of many miles. One of the sledges had been recently disabled, so none of the farm servants were able to go with them. Rather a large party got into the remaining sleigh, which though a roomy one was more than full; but when the farmer proposed to leave the two boys at home there was so much lamentation that he relented. Andreas handed his comely looking wife Ingeborg to her seat; she was followed by her sons, Raoul, the younger, a walking bundle of fur, taking his place on his place on his mother's knees. Ella, the pretty only daughter, next stepped in; and lastly, carrying some wrap for his lady love, came Hugo, Ella's betrothed, who the day before had arrived on snow shoes from the southward to spend a few days at Ravensdal. Andreas, mounted to his seat, gently touched with the whip the three horses, harnessed unicorn fashion, and they started at a smart pace. It was quite early, for service began at twelve, and as the distance was great it was necessary to start betimes. As yet there was no glimmer of daylight, but moon and stars shone with a radiance unknown in our latitudes, and there was abundance of light for the journey. Burrowed in skins and furs, the party did not feel the cold, which though great was not excessive—the absence of a breath of wind and the perfect dryness of the atmosphere making it much more endurable than the same depression of the thermometer would be in England. It was a grand event, this journey to church, for weeks and weeks had passed since they were able to go. True, Andreas had every Sunday a sort of prayer meeting at Ravensdal with the neighboring peasants, but this did not compensate for the lack of the public services. Then, too, the whole family thought it most fortunate that the fairness of the weather should enable them to go on this especial Sunday of all others, for it was what they call an altar day, i. e., the Sacrament was to be administered.

There was an eyrie beauty in the scene; the solemn mountains lifting up their hoary heads into the star sprinkled sky; the small tarn with its glistening icy surface, the stern old pines, whose green looked almost black contrasted with the snow, and the graceful birken trees, those ladies of the wood, decked out, as little Raoul said, when the first rime fell that winter, in their white manties, all ready for sister Ella's wedding day. The stillness was unbroken; dumb the ere long dancing icy (river), where, when the valley was filled with the sound of its noisy music, the English sportsmen had caught the salmon with those marvelous many colored flies, the envy of the neighborhood; silent and deserted the picturesque saw mill, which had been such a busy animated scene in the summer, when the English lady had sketched it half deafened by the whirr of its wheels. But all this to make amends for the stillness elsewhere, there was no silence in the sledge. Andreas turned to address his wife, or talk to his horses in that brotherly way so characteristic of the Norwegian, who always makes friends of the four footed creatures in his service, and particularly of his horses. Olaf, the elder boy, who was perched on Hugo's knee, after some vain attempts to obtain his attention, turned to his mother and Raoul, and kept up with them a continuous stream of question and remark; while Hugo and Ella, leaning back in one corner, heeding nobody and nothing but themselves, found much to say to each other in low, happy tones. And the tinkling of the merry sleigh bells, as they jingled round the horses' collars, made to all this a most musical accompaniment.

One-third of the journey was over, when, with a startled exclamation, Andreas suddenly pulled up his horses. At a turn of the road there lay, extended on the snow, a human form. In a minute the farmer had confided the reins to Olaf, proud of the charge, and he and Hugo jumping down ran to give assistance. The pack at the man's side told them that he was one of those peddlers who wander from farm house to farm house all over the country. Overpowered by cold, he had sunk into that fainting deathlike sleep from which there is ofttimes no waking. At first all efforts to rouse him failed, but life was evidently not extinct; so seeing a chalet close at hand, which in the summer had been used as a covert for cattle, and now was a store for firewood, they carried him there, and kindling a fire on the outside, they rubbed his limbs till some warmth returned, and poured some corn brandy (which no Norwegian travels without) down his throat, and he partially revived. All this occupied some time, and they were quite in a dilemma as to what to do next. Leave him they could not, to take him on with them was impossible; he was not sufficiently recovered to bear the air, even if they could make room for him in that state. To turn back and take him home was almost as difficult, and if so they must give up church entirely. Ella, who had alighted to assist them, at last said in a decided tone, 'There is but one thing, father, that we can do—Hugo must stay with the poor man.'

'Yes,' said Hugo, 'that is the best plan. You drive on to church, and take us up in the afternoon as you return; by that time he is sure to be all right.'

'Well,' said Andreas, 'it does seem the only way; but it will be a sad disappointment for you, my poor girl.'

'I do not know that,' muttered Hugo; she was the first to propose getting rid of me.'

'Now that is too bad,' said Ella, with a face rueful enough to satisfy her lover, 'when you know I have been counting for weeks and weeks upon your being with us for this altar Sunday.'

It was clearly the most feasible plan, and so it was settled. Ella murmured to Hugo as he helped her into the sledge again:

'God will not the less bless our engagement that it begins with an act of self denial.'

'True, Ella, you remember what you said last night about being almost too happy, everything so bright; it is as well there should be a little cross.'

Some provisions which had been put into the sledge ready for any emergency, were handed out to Hugo, and he was entreated to take care of himself as well as the peddler, and to keep a good fire.

'Certainly,' said he, 'no fear of not doing that; why, here is fire wood enough to roast half a dozen oxen whole. You are sure you will be able to do without me, Father Andreas?'

'Perfectly, the horses are quite manageable, the road good, and the weather fair—we can have no difficulty.'

So they started off again, Olaf saucily calling out to Hugo, that now he was gone Ella would be of some use to other people, and that the rest of the party would gain, not lose, only by his departure. However, Ella was not inclined to be lively, and her gravity infected even the high spirits of her young brothers. The remainder of the drive was rather dull for all parties, and everyone was glad when the peaked roofs of the town came into sight. The Jansens drove to a relation's house, put up the horses, left their outer coverings in the sledge, and then entered the church soon after the service had commenced. Dame Ingeborg and Ella took their places on the north side, while Andreas and his boys went to the south, the men's side. The church was a large octagon wooden building, black with age, and of picturesque construction, the interior adorned with quaint carving and some strange frescoes of Scripture subjects, dating from before the Reformation. It was well filled, and with a congregation as picturesque as the building. There was a mixture of races and dress, the Norse women wearing beneath their hoods the 'bun,' and a close fitting black cap, with sober colored dress, while the Finn were decked out in gaudy colors and tinsel ornaments. The tall forms of the blue eyed, fair haired descendants of the Vikings contrasted very favorably with the stunted figures and sallow faces of the more northern and inferior race. The pastor was a venerable old man, dressed in the style of our English clergy of the time of Elizabeth and James I. He had on the black canonicals of the Lutheran clergy, a thick, white ruff around his neck, his long white hair floated over his shoulders, while, on account of the cold, he wore a black velvet skull cap on his head.

Prayers and singing over, he commenced his discourse without notes of any kind, and in a strain of simple, fervid eloquence, which riveted the attention of his auditors, he expounded the sublime precept which Christianity first inculcated, of doing to others what we would that they should do to us. The sermon over some christenings followed, and then the Communion. The service, which had lasted more than three hours, at length terminated, and they emerged from the church. Many were the greetings to be exchanged between friends and neighbors, unseen for long, and it was sometime ere the Jansens reached the relation's house, where they were to partake of the mid day meal. This over, they did not linger long, for Andreas had promised Hugo, they would return as soon as possible. As they were leaving the town they were stopped near the parsonage by the pastor, who pressed them to come in and see the Frau Pastorinn. Andreas explained the reasons which made them anxious to be off, and the good old man, shaking him heartily by the hand, said:

'So some of you have been acting what I have been preaching, giving the good Samaritan. Well, well, it shall not lack its reward. God bless you, friend Andreas!'

The short-lived northern day had long waned when, leaving the clustered, wooden dwellings surrounding the church behind them, the Jansens started on their homeward route to Ravensdal. But little was the daylight to assist, for the glorious northern lights were up, streaming, flickering like fiery banners across the sky, brighter far than the pale Arctic winter sun, and diffusing around a mild beautiful radiance neither sunshine nor moonshine, but a light more poetic, more romantic, than that of common day or night. Little Raoul clapped his hands with delight, as from the luminous cloud on the northern horizon, streamers of green, purple, red and golden light shot up. Andreas said it was years and years since an Aurora so splendid had been seen. 'Look at the blood-red color; our forefathers thought it ever foreboded death or misfortunes. I have heard many stories of the terror such an appearance occasioned. How happy are we who have learnt to trust in a Heavenly Father, and no longer fear such omens.'

A lonely road was their way home; no habitations except a few farm-houses near the town, and when these were passed a long stretch of desolate country—wild, rocky valleys, all clad in their snowy garments, with the deserted Summer chalets scattered over them, mocking the traveler with an idea of human life; beneath frowning precipices of black rock, where the snow could find no resting place; through pine woods, whose venerable denizens have survived many generations of mortals,

"Mocored to the rifted rock,
Proof to the tempest shock."

The children were asleep, Raoul in his mother's arms, who half-unconsciously was humming to herself a hymn of praise as she wrapped the nestling warm in her furs. Olaf, after repeated declarations that he was not in the least sleepy, had been glad to lean his head against his sister's shoulder; his eyes soon closed, and he was as sound asleep as his little brother. Ella gave herself up to a dreamy reverie as she thought over the solemn communion service, the sermon, and then the bright future before her. Pleasant thoughts they were; in her life's horizon it was all blue sky behind her, and she saw still more before her. And soon these thoughts were woven together, and bright castles in the air arose which made her smile to herself as she pictured them before her mind's eye; what Hugo and she would do when they had a home of their own, how they would welcome the wayfarer, nurse the sick and succor the distressed. Then higher and upward flew her thoughts, and she imagined the hour when earth's usefulness should cease, earth's happiness fade; when, the threshold of eternity passed, they should hear the angelic songs of victory, and a voice from the throne, saying, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me.'

Lost in her own thoughts, Ella had little heeded a noise which was heard from time to time, and which she fancied the fall of avalanches from crag to crag in the mountains. But now on all of a sudden she remarked that her father had several times turned his head to look back, and that his face wore a troubled expression. 'What is it, father?' she asked, 'is there anything the matter?'

'Nothing, nothing,' he answered in a short, stern manner not at all usual to him —'I hope nothing;' and then murmured to himself in a lower tone, 'God grant it may be nothing.'

Her uneasiness by no means lessened, but, understanding he did not wish to be questioned, she remained silent, but with her attention on the alert to discover the cause for anxiety. The dull noise in the rear certainly increased, and was heard at fitful intervals, now almost swelling into a note, then dying away, and was decidedly nearer than when first she had remarked it. The horses, too, seemed by some wonderful instinct to partake her father's uneasiness. Just then the noise began afresh, and now an unmistakable howl sent a flash of certainty into her mind. Unable longer to bear the suspense, she half-rose, and gasped out: 'Oh, father, is it—is it the wolves?'

'They are a long way behind,' said Andreas; 'we shall reach home well, never fear.'

But the farmer's face contradicted his cheerful words, and with a sinking of heart as if its action had been stopped, and then a tumultuous rush of blood through her veins, Ella sank back on her seat. It was a fearful revulsion of feeling to be thus suddenly torn from a state of dreamy reverie and brought face to face with a great danger. The fainting sensation was over directly, and closing her eyes for a moment and murmuring a heart-felt prayer, her natural courage returned. Ella had till then only seen dead wolves, the trophies of the chase, and once or twice one securely muzzled on its way to some foreign menagerie; but too many dreadful wolf stories are current round Norwegian hearths in the Winter for her not to divine the greatness of the peril, and she tried to calculate their probable distance from home, and the chances of escape.

Frau Ingeborg next heard the howl, and asked the same terrified question as her daughter. 'Oh, God, my poor children!' was her only exclemation; and then she, too, was calm and still. Nearer, nearer is the howling—faster go the terrified horses, their instinct has told them the danger. Ella gently disengages herself from the sleeping Olaf, and, unbidden, gets out the rifle and powder-flask, and in silence looks to the loading. Andreas' eyes fall on her; he is even at that moment pleased to see the fruit of the training he has given his child, in her pale, composed face and steady hand, like a brave Norse maiden as she was. Her eyes are now strained to look back as far as she can. Ere long, on the brow of a hill they have descended, she sees a black moving mass against the sky. 'I see them, father, but they are far off yet.'

A groan escapes from Andreas. 'God help us, then!' he mutters. Wife and daughter read his face, and from their hearts, too, goes up that agonized prayer. Ah! well may they pray it. On come the pack, some half-hundred gaunt, hungry wolves, their dismal howl freezing the life-blood of the Jansens. The horses bound onward with red nostrils and panting sides; they go like the wind, but the distance is steadily diminished. And the howl of the wolves sounds like a mocking demon cry: 'Ha, ha! ye go fast, we faster; ye are few, we are many; it is our turn now; ye are the hunted, we the hunters. Ha, ha! how like ye the change?'

'Would it not be possible,' said Ella, 'to take refuge in one of these chalets? Could we not barricade ourselves there?'

'It would be only quicker death, the wolves would soon force the door; there would be no fastenings of sufficient strength to resist them.'

They looked above, around—neither help nor hope was to be seen; the pitiless earth was wrapped in one vast winding-sheet of snow, and the glancing lights in the sky revealed only too clearly their desperate condition. A cold damp stands on the farmer's brow; still he guides his horses with firm hand, speaks encouragingly to them, and though he, knowing the peril best, has given up hope first, he relaxes no effort. It was hard in the flush of manhood, the prime of life, with the blood coursing through each vein in strength and youthful vigor, to have nothing to do but die. As he looked at his dear ones, he thought, were these but safe, death would not be so fearful; and then the image of the pleasant home at Ravensdal rose up before him, and to leave all this, to die and leave no name, no heir behind him, it was hard! Was it not a triumph of Christian faith, that he, then circumstanced, could say, 'Thy will be done'? Dame Ingeborg said nothing, but her tears fell fast over the nestling Raoul she was straining to her heart, and as the child started at the noise, she hushed him off to sleep as careful as if he had been in his little bed at home, thankful that one at least of her darlings was spared the anguish of this valley of the shadow of death. And yet to her arose a ray of light, a gleam of happiness, and she thought that she and all her dear ones would cross the river of death at the same time; no widow hood, no orphanage, no childishness—the parting of a moment and then the eternal reunion in bliss. Olaf, roused by his sister's rising, had awoke, and seeing the wolves, too terrified even to cry, had hidden his face. Ella gently bade him pray to God and try and be a brave boy, he caught the infection of her calmness. Swallowing his tears, he knelt on the seat, and hiding his face in the wraps, that he might not see the objects of his dread, he manfully tried to stifle his sobs, and repeated over and over again his simple prayer: 'Oh, Lord Jesus, please drive away these dreadful wolves, and let us all get safe home.' Of all, Ella was the happiest, for one great comfort was hers, her best beloved was safe, and, as she thought, with a thrill of joy that seemed strange at such an instant, through an act of self-denial to which she had urged him, and which was blessing by his deliverance. The wolves were gaining fast; they could distinguish the fiery eyes, the red tongues hanging out. Ella, as she saw one in advance, quite close to them, cried out, 'Father, father! the rifle.'

'Then take the reins an instant!' said he, as he took the weapon from her hand. Ella obeyed, the horses wanted little guidance, and the wolf fell dead beneath the father's sure aim. There was a stop of the whole pack, and the Jansens almost dared to hope. Andreas' face was gloomy as before. 'Only check,' murmured he; 'they are mad with hunger. The one I have killed will be devoured, and then—'

His words were verified; in five minutes' time they again heard the baying of the pack, and they were soon in sight, their appetite whetted by the taste of blood, on, with increased ardor for the chase. Again was one shot down—again occurred the temporary lull, and then afresh began that ghastly hunt.

'There is but one charge more, father,' said Ella.

'We will save it as long as we can,' was Andreas' reply. And his voice was hoarse and husky.

We left Hugo at his good Samaritan deed of kindness toward the hawker. The man soon recovered sufficiently to sit up and give some account of himself. As Andreas Jansen had supposed, he had lost his way traveling from one farm house to another, and had sunk exhausted into the deep slumber which generally subsides into death. In answer to his inquiries as to how he had been found, he heard about the intended drive to church, and discovered the self-denial Hugo had practised in giving up the expedition to take care of him.

'I owe you thanks, young man; you have preferred remaining with an old peddler in difficulties to accompanying your betrothed. It is a dull exchange.'

'Indeed,' said Hugo, 'I am quite repaid by seeing you all right again. I was afraid, at first, it was all over. What a narrow escape! Another half-hour we should have been too late.'

'Yes, another lease of life,' said the hawker, gravely; 'spared a little longer by the Heavenly Friend who has stood at my side in many dangers during a long life of wandering.'

'Let me hear your experiences. How much you have seen! It will be hours before my friends are back. Talking them over will help while away the time.'

The sketch Eric Peterman gave of his life was indeed remarkable. He was one of those pious men not frequently met with in Norway, who, while earning their livelihood by hawking, are at the same time humble missionaries, Bible and tract colporteurs, holding prayer-meetings in the villages when they can get a congregation, and in an unobtrusive way often doing a great deal of good. Like most of his brethren he was a man of few advantages of education, but well versed in the Scriptures, and possessing native eloquence, combined with the unfailing attraction of a soul thoroughly in earnest, and ennobled by the pursuit of a lofty and disinterested aim. He had been a disciple of the celebrated Hauge, the John Wesley of the North, and had shared some of his imprisonments at a time when little about religious toleration was known in Norway. Many times he had traversed the country, and even penetrated far into Russian Lapland. One whole winter he had been weather-bound on one of the Loffodens. Strange stories he could tell of perils by land and perils by water, shipwrecks, and hair-breadth escapes from robbers who coveted his pack. The time passed quickly in listening to such narratives; the record of this good man's life was like a living sermon to Hugo, the exposition of Gospel truth in a most inviting form, the example of one who had practised all he taught. After a pause, during which they had been partaking of the contents of Dame Ingeborg's basket, Eric said, rather abruptly:

'By-the-by, I heard some unpleasant news at the farm I was at yesterday. They say a large pack of wolves has come down from the fields to the northward; the early and severe Winter this season is supposed to have driven them down. Some hunters out on bear chase a few days back had a narrow escape; they report the wolves are going to the south.'

'I hope not,' said Hugo; 'they have heard nothing about it at Ravensdal, no more had I, but then I came from the contrary direction. I hope not, though I should like it above everything if we could muster a strong party and have a good hunt; but wolves are fearful foes to meet unprepared.'

Unsefined apprehensions he could not shake off, filled the young man's mind, and after trying to talk of other things, he came back to the wolves, and to speculations as to their position and movements. So time sped on, and he paced up and down with a growing uneasiness he in vain told himself was ungrounded and absurd, and he longed for the return of the sleigh to terminate these secret fears. Eric had been listening intently for some minutes, and all at once exclaimed, 'There, now, I hear a howl.'

Hugo threw himself on the floor to hear better, and ere long heard the same sound.

'I fear—I fear it is so; it is far off, but oh, in the same direction they have taken.'

After some moments of intense attention both men satisfied themselves that it was not the howl of a solitary wolf, and that it was steadily advancing.

'Oh, tell me what can we do,' cried Hugo; 'it is on the track which leads from the town just the time which they would be on the road. My poor Ella, what can I do?'

'Unarmed as we are, it is only by remaining here we can easily defend. With that amount of firewood at our back, I would defy an army of wolves. Look! the chalet stands in a recess of rock; from point to point we can make a rampart of fire.' So saying, he began to arrange faggots in a line from one point of rock to the other, leaving an open space in the centre. 'I think with you, young man, that your friends are on their road, and that the wolves are pursuing them, else we would not hear that continuous howling nearer and nearer. I am leaving this space for the sledge to pass; the wolves would never dare to attempt to follow through such a wall of flame as we can raise.'

'Hist! I hear the gallop of horses,' said Hugo, kneeling on the snow.

'Then set fire to our barrier, it may be a beacon to them, and show them where we are.'

This was soon done, and the bright pine wood flame was ere long streaming into the sky.

'Now,' said Eric, 'get more faggots ready, for you and I must be prepared to close up the passage immediately the sleigh is safe.'

'But the horses,' said Hugo, 'will they pass between two such fires as we have here?'

'No fear; they are terrified enough to leap over a precipice if it came in their way—anything, everything—to escape those that are after them.'

A few minutes passed in breathless suspense, during which the noise of horses and wolves came louder and louder.

'Ah! there they are,' cried Hugo, 'and the whole pack behind. They see us; Andreas is flogging the horses. Oh, God! there is a great wolf close upon them—Oh, I would give ten years of my life for a rifle for one instant. Andreas dares not leave the reins. Ella is standing up; she has the rifle. Good Heavens, the wolf will spring at her. No, she has fired—shot him down—my brave Ella, my own dear girl!'

Another moment and the sledge was in the haven of refuge provided by the forethought of the peddler, safe from the ruthless wolves behind the barrier of flame. The exhausted horses had stopped of themselves; the Jansens were beneath the shelter of the chalet, half fainting, scarcely crediting their preservation. As soon as he could speak, the farmer said, in a deep voice of thankfulness, 'Wife, children, let us thank God;' and kneeling, with the tears rolling down his hardy cheeks, in a few words of heartwarm thankfulness he returned thanks for their deliverance from a bloody death.

It was some time before sufficient composure returned to relate all that had passed, and when that had been done, Andreas said, 'Hugo might say, "It shall be no wise lose its reward." If you'—turning to the peddler—'had not required assistance, if Hugo had not remained, we must all have perished.'

The Jansens had to stay in the chalet that night, but when the next morning dawned the wolves had all dispersed, and they reached home with ease and safety. A few days later Andreas and Hugo had the satisfaction of exhibiting some wolf skins as trophies of their vanquished enemies.

The story of the memorable sleigh drive to church was ever preserved at Ravensdal, and often told in after years with pious gratitude, to awe struck children and grandchildren.—[Selected.

THE OLD SOLDIER TRAMP.

BY JOAQUIN MILLER.

Yes, bread! I want bread! You heard what I said;
Yet you stand and you stare,
As if never before came a tramp to your door
With such insolent air.

Would I work? Never learned. My home it was burned;
And I haven't yet found
Any heart to plough lands and build homes for red Lands
That burned mine to the ground.

No bread! You have said! Then my curse on your head!
And what shall sting worse,
On that wife at your side, on those babes in their pride,
Fall my seven fold curse!

Good by! I must fiarn to creep into your barn;
Suck your eggs; hide away;
Sneak around like a hound—light a match in your hay—
Limp away through the gray!

Yes, I limp—curse these stones! And then my old bones—
They were riddled with ball
Down at Shiloh. What, you? You war wounded that, too?
Well, you beat us—that's all.

Yet even my heart with a stout pride will start
As I tramp. For you see,
No matter which won, it was gallantly done,
And a glorious American victory.

What, kind words and bread? God's smiles on your head!
On your wife, on your babes,—and please, sir, I pray
You'll pardon me, sir; but that fight trenched me here.
Deep—deeper than sword cut that day.

Nay, I'll go. Sir, adieu! To Tityre • • • You
Have Augustus for friend,
While I—Yes, read and speak both Latin and Greek;
And talk slang without end.

Hey? Oxford. But, then, when the wild cry for men
Rang out through the gathering night
As a mother that cries for her children and dies,
We two hurried home for the fight.

How noble, my brother, how brave—and—but there—
This tramping about somehow weakens my eyes.
At Shiloh! We stood 'neath that hill by the wood—
It's a graveyard today, I surmise.

Yes, we stood to the last! And when the strife passed
I sank down in blood at his side,
On his brow, on his breast—what need tell the rest?
I But knew that my brother had died.

What! wounds on your breast? Your brow tells the rest;
You fought at my side and you fell?
You the brave boy that stood at my side in that wood
On that blazing red border of hell?

My brother! My own! Never king on his throne
Knew a joy like this brought to me.
God bless you, my life; bless your brave Northern wife,
And your beautiful babes, two and three.

STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS.

'What sort of a looking man was he?'

'He had a very large head and a very small body. When I first saw him I remember I thought his head too large for his body. He had a face in some respects like Daniel Webster's, but Webster's face was longer than that of Douglas, and his forehead may have been an inch higher. They both had big, straight noses, bright eyes, and firm characteristic mouths. Douglas had a very high forehead, and a very broad one. He possessed great personal magnetism, and could charm whomsoever he would, if he could come in contact with him. He did not let his politics interfere with his friendships, and was broad in his ideas of social relations. He was very successful in his career at Washington, and usually succeeded in getting Congress to pass what he wanted. He did not so much care to make a show as he did to succeed, and he often gave to others the glory of advocating measures of which he was the legitimate father.'—[Cleveland Leader.

Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman.

WAITING FOR THE TRAIN.

BY CHARLES F. GERRY.

I'm waiting for the Rail Road train,
To bring the sweet, warm kiss
Of wife and children ever dear,
Who make my home from year to year
A home of earthly bliss.

I'm waiting for the Rail-Road train,
A full hour over due:
I walk the platform up and down,
And try my rising tears to drown,
But tears my cheeks bedew—

I'm waiting for the Rail Road train,
I list the welcome sound,
But only hum of neighboring mill,
And distant song of whippoorwill,
Upon my ears rescund—

I'm waiting for the Rail-Road train,
And fancy brings to view,
A perfect wreck of shattered cars,
With broken limbs, and ugly scars,—
And loved ones wounded too—

I'm waiting for the Rail-Road train,
I hear the whi-tle shrill;
And now the engine's glowing light
Illumes the track on left and right,
And makes my pulses thrill—

I wait with joy the Rail-Road train's
Approach with stifled hum;
And now fond arms my neck entwine,
And dewy lips are pressed to mine,—
The loved ones all have come.

AN AMATEUR LETTER-CARRIER.

BY JUDGE T. C. HALIBURTON.

When we set out for Halifax everything portended a change of weather. The sky was clear, but not transparent; the snow, which had lain so pure and unsullied, looked yellow and dirty, and, although there was a total absence of clouds, the sun was obscured. A south wind, which had blown fitfully at intervals, increased to a gale, before we had progressed far: a few loose dark flakes of uncommon size began to fall around us, and soon the snow assumed, in its rapid and compact descent, the appearance of a dense cloud.

The clear sound of the sleigh bells became dull and heavy, and finally ceased. We put our horses to full speed, till the rapidity of the motion through the white and dazzling downfall nearly deprived us of the power of vision. Enormous drifts lay across the track like waves of the sea, and at times our noble animals appeared perfectly buried, and could only proceed by rearing and plunging forward. The last faint intimation of glancing lights in the sky, being between the house and the outbuildings which were situated on opposite sides of the road at Mount Hope, had rolled up a precipitous bank impossible to pass in harness. We released our horses, and by a circuitous route managed to reach the inn, and were shown into a room warmed by one of the large, blazing wood fires of Nova Scotia. After a capital dinner, we drew up to the cheerful hearth, and were soon joined by other travellers who had been compelled by the storm to take shelter. The company consisted of six or eight persons; Miss Lucy Neal, the manager of the household, a fine, hearty, blooming, good natured country girl, of about 30 years of age; and Mr. Stephen Richardson, a tall, muscular, handsome looking man, with a slight stoop in the shoulder, a knowing and comical expression of face, free and easy manners, and a dress of light blue homespun, were prominent in the circle. A small, thin man with a sour, bilious face, and dressed in a suit of black, began to entertain us with his grievances. He had been at Halifax to solicit some petty office, which he found to his dismay had been disposed of to an earlier applicant.

'I don't pity you a bit,' said Stephen Richardson; 'there is nothing so mean to farmers like you and me as office seeking, unless it be wearing broadcloth instead of homespun, as if a man were above his business. I'll tell you what, when situations in the country fall vacant, folks to Halifax know it as well as can be; for the slow train just feels a soft fall of the moon; it's filled with stray cattle.'

The little man in black, though evidently accustomed to these rough rustic remarks, appeared to wince under their application before strangers, and made an attempt to turn the conversation by taking a letter out of his pocket book and asking Richardson 'if he would do him the favor to allow him the use of his medium of transmit ing it to Halifax, having unfortunately forgotten to deliver it himself.'

'Which means, in plain English,' said Stephen, 'you fetched it back by mistake. Why can't you talk plain? There is nothing like homespun talk and homespun cloth for a farmer. I'll take a hundred of them if you like. Let's see it.'

He then took the letter and examined the address, and, reversing it, looked at the seal, and returned it, saying:

'Open that letter and read it to me or I can't take it. I've made a vow never to carry a paper for any man unless I know what's in it. I got into an awful scrape once by carrying a letter that had a wafer in it to Sir Hercules Langrish the governor that used to be here a good while ago. I'll tell you how it was, so that you may see it ain't because I don't want to oblige you, but just to keep out of a scrape myself when I know I am well off. One fall just as I was a-starting from home for Halifax in a vessel loaded with apples and cider I raised on my own farm, and the matter of 500 boxes of smoked herrings (which I caught and cured myself), who should come along but Pete Balcom with a letter in his hand.

'"Steve," said he, "just leave this at Government House, will you, that's a good fellow, as soon as you arrive in town, and I will do as much for you some other time."

'"Certainly, says I: "but my hands are sort of dirty, do you take my pocket book out of my jacket and stow it away snug," and he did so. Well, one day after I got to Halifax and unloaded the vessel, as I was going along the street with my working clothes on, who should I see a galloping along from parade but the governor and a couple of other officers, with their spurs a jangling, and their swords a dangling, and their plumes a nodding, talking and a laughing like any thing. I'll just follow on to Government House and give Pete Balcom's letter to one of the hired men.

'So away I goes into one of the great stone gates, and there was trees, and gravel-walks, and little bushes, and a sort of garden-looking place, and a great big front door. So I backed out and went up the hill, and turned into t'other gate, and, as I am a living sinner, there was another pleasure garden-looking place, and a front door there, too. Thinks I, goodness me! where's the back porch that common folks like me go into! These places are only meant for great men and office-seekers, like our friend Broadcloth here. So I took a circuit all round the house till I came back to where I started from, like a fellow lost in the woods, when I saw a baker drive in.

'"Come," says I to myself, "I'll ax no questions, for that looks as if you didn't know, but I'll just follow old Dough, for where the bread goes he that raises the flour has the right to go also." Well, out he jumps from his cart, and takes a basket of loaves on his arm, and dives down behind an iron railing alongside of the street door, and I after him. Though he knew the way and I didn't. I kept close up to him for all that; for a man that can overhaul a moose ain't easy left behind by a baker chap, I tell you. Well, we no sooner got into the lower regions than Sixpenny Loaf lays down his basket, ups with his whip, knocks at the door, and off like a shot, leaving me and the basket there.

'"Hullo," said I, "Mister, deliver your own freight yourself, will you, if you please? it's enough for me to hand in Pete Balcom's letter. And besides, I am a stranger here.

'But crack went the whip and away went the wheels; and the only answer I got was, "Come in." So I opened the door and there was a little, thin old lady with spectacles on and her two daughters, handsomely dressed. Mother was writing in a big book that looked to me like a merchant's ledger, and the two young women were making a bit of carpet with colored yarns in a small-sized quilting frame. Thinks I to myself, I won't say nothing about that trick the feller played me with the bread. If he don't choose to stop for his pay he may go without it. So says I:

'"Marm, I've a letter for the governor that a neighbor of mine, one Pete Balcom, asked me to leave here for him;" and I out pocket-book and gave it to her and she handed it to one of the gals, who went out to hand it to some one else.

'"Take a chair and sit down," said old mother, quite sociable like. "Be so good as to wait a moment, perhaps his excellency the governor may have an answer for you;" and then she went on writing as before.'

'That must have been the housekeeper you saw,' said Miss Lucy, with the patronizing air of a person who thinks she knows the world; 'and what you call bits of carpet in frames was rug work.'

'I don't know who the plague she was,' said Stephen, 'nor don't care. I never saw her before, and I never want to see her again.'

'Well, as I was a saying, that gave me time to cast my eye round and think a bit upon things in general; and when I seed these nice-dressed women, and well-furnished room, and flowers, and what not, thinks I, "if this is your kitchen-room, what must your parlor be?" And then I looked at my clothes all covered with dust, a little more nor half worn, and looking none the better for the tar of the vessel. I won't say I wished for broadcloth, for I didn't; but I did long for my new suit of homespun, for I feel sort of proud of it, seeing I raised the stuff, and my old woman wove it, and made it, as I said before.

'Well, just then in come a servant with a pair of red breeches on, and gold garters, and white stockings pulled up tight over a pair of legs about as big as—as big as—what shall I say? why, about as big as your drumsticks, Broadcloth. The fellow looked as much like a gentleman, and was as well dressed, as an eddy-gong, or chapinin, or whatever they call them, and as impudent too, for says he, "Follow me!" quite short, like a chap that has received so many orders that he begins to think at last he has a right to give them himself. Thinks I, Natur is Natur, whether it's on a farm or in a governor's kitchen room, for everything gets saucy that's well-fed and has nothing to do.

'Well, he takes me through a long stone passage as cold as the nateral ice-house on Granville mountain, and as dark, too; then up a pair of stairs, and then turn to the right, and then to the left, and then to the right again, as folks tell you when you don't know the road. It sort of crossed my mind as I followed the critter, who seemed most too lazy to carry his shoes, "I suppose the governor is going to offer me a glass of grog for fetching that letter, and that I'll take, for that's sociable and civil-like, though I wouldn't take all the money in his house, for that's mean and don't become Homespun."

'At last Breeches showed me into a large unfurnished room, without a carpet or a curtain, as bare as my thrashing floor, with nothen in it but two unstuffed wooden sofas, and a table with a large writing book and an ink stand on it. On one side sat a sergeant with his sword on, and on the other a thirteen penny soldier with his bagonet on, and there he left me standing in the middle of the room, without saying as much as, "By your leave," or anything else. In less than half a minute out came the governor, a great, tall, thin, bony man, like myself, with a bald head, a nose as big as a brass knocker, and a pair of eyes that stuck out like a lobster's, as Lucifer's, with his great big sword by his side, and his spurs on, just as I saw him in the street, only he had his hat with its white feathers in his hand. As soon as he came in, up jumps the sergeant and the soldier, and stood as straight as two ramrods.

'"How dare you hand me such a letter as that, Mr. Halibut?" said he.

'"Governor!" says I.

'"Silence!" says he. "It admits of no excuse."

'I never heard no more after that, I was so taken aback, and me with my old working clothes looking like Old Scratch himself; out on he went, foaming and roaring like a firebrand, and stomping, stomping round on the board floor, and waving his arms like a wind mill. Thinks I to myself, this is what I call an indictment, and they are a going to send me to the guard house as sure as the world; and then I looked first at the sergeant, and then at Thirteen pence, and I seed I could pitch fork them fellers out of the window as easy as a sheaf of wheat; but then there was the governor. If I was to lay hands on him, even in self defence, I knew it would be rebellion, besides going again the grain, for I am a loyal man, and so was my father before me; and besides that, I wa'